Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report
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FBIS-NES-95-129 *6 July 1995*

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Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Welcomes Geneva Talks 'Progress'

MM0607102095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 6 Jul 95 pp 1, 6

[Interview with Palestinian Authority President Yasir 'Arafat by Khayrallah Khayrallah in Geneva "yesterday"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Khayrallah] How would you assess the meeting held with Shim'on Peres last Tuesday [4 July]?

['Arafat] It was not bad. We reached a rather important statement, published yesterday, in which we reached agreement on some of the points that were the subject of disagreements throughout last month, regarding the concept of withdrawal before elections, the transfer of powers, and the holding of elections immediately after that. There are still some outstanding points. They concern the withdrawal from Ramallah, Bethlehem, and Hebron. We formed a committee which is supposed to meet today (yesterday) to follow up this point and to secure common denominators in this connection. But the point that is particularly important, on which they (the Israelis) insisted, is the security issue in general. We in turn insist that security for our citizens and in the inhabited areas is a Palestinian responsibility; we remain responsible for our own citizens, as is the case in Gaza at present... and with regard to confronting terrorism. That is all there is to it.

[Khayrallah] Do you expect the signing to take place on 25 July?

['Arafat] The committees are supposed to be continuing their meetings. Three committees are holding meetings today. There is a committee in Cairo continuing its work on the transfer of powers, another committee is working on redeployment, and the elections committee is continuing its work on the ground. We hope to conclude these negotiations before 25 July. There is also the issue of detainees. We have agreed that the Israeli side should release them gradually on the basis of what was agreed previously, provided that a large number of them are released when or before the agreement is signed.

[Khayrallah] Are you generally satisfied with what has been achieved?

['Arafat] I can say that we achieved progress yesterday. The most important thing I want is for the other side to comply with what we have agreed.

[Khayrallah] With regard to the Hamas oppositionists, for example, how will you deal with them?

['Arafat] We are not against opposition at all. We are not against differences of opinion. We proceed from what we agreed at our previous National Council meetings, namely that the majority should respect the minority's opinion and vice versa.

[Khayrallah] With regard to Jordan, has any development occurred in relations?

['Arafat] Without doubt. I am pleased to say that there is progress at all levels, including progress with regard to the agreements we concluded after my recent visit to Amman. These agreements included several aspects relating to the economy, transport, education, trade, and so on. Furthermore, my talks with His Majesty King Husayn were successful, and we are proud of that.

[Khayrallah] A statement was attributed to you last week after the Palestinian cabinet meeting to the effect that you were a target in Addis Ababa with two other Arab leaders?

['Arafat] I did not say that.

[Khayrallah] Did you not say that you were a target?

['Arafat] The Ethiopians were concerned for all the leaders. They moved me in particular from the villa area allocated to the leaders participating in the African summit to the imperial palace. That is all that happened.

[Khayrallah] So there was nothing special?

['Arafat] No, there was nothing special.

[Khayrallah] But you were cited as saying after the Palestinian cabinet meeting that you were a target in Addis Ababa....

['Arafat] That is untrue. That report was inaccurate.

[Khayrallah] With regard to the Iraq issue, has anything new occurred in light of your contacts with the Israelis and the Americans?

['Arafat] We hope that Arab leaders will be able to surmount all problems and disagreements, especially as we are approaching a new world order of which we may or may not be a part. It is known that Third World states — not just the Arabs but Asian, African, and Latin American states — are directly targeted in the new world order; the Arabs are in the forefront. The matter requires an Arab position that transcends all negative aspects and all the effects of the Gulf crisis. Otherwise we will all pay a high price.

[Khayrallah] Do you believe that there is a possibility of Iraqi-Israeli contacts?

['Arafat] I know nothing about that matter.

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[Khayrallah] In your view, what stage has been reached in the situation between Syria and Israel?

['Arafat] According to what was announced in Washington, the two sides have achieved very important results, which the security and military committee will follow up this month.

[Khayrallah] What will you tell President Jacques Chirac when you meet him in three hours' time?

['Arafat] My friendship with President Chirac is of long standing, France is adopting a distinct position, and the Gaullists have a known stand on both the Palestinian question and Arab issues. I hope and expect President Chirac and the Gaullists to play a distinguished role in the Middle East region.

[Khayrallah] How do you view the Palestinian future, specifically Jerusalem's future?

['Arafat] It must be understood that there can be no peace without Jerusalem. When we went to Madrid, we went there on the basis of the land-for-peace rule, proceeding from Resolutions 242 and 338. That was in the days of Yitzhaq Shamir. Yitzhaq Shamir himself agreed to go to Madrid on the basis of these conditions. They also apply to Arab Jerusalem, because it was occupied in 1967.

[Khayrallah] How do you view the future of self-rule?

['Arafat] The question concerns the Palestinian National Authority, not self-rule. It is no coincidence that the resolution adopted by the Palestine National Council in 1974 spoke about the establishment of a Palestinian national authority on any part of the Palestinian national territory that was liberated or from which the Israelis withdrew. That was in 1974.

[Khayrallah] You met with South African Vice President De Klerk a few minutes ago. You always told the Israelis: If you have no de Gaulle, you should have among yourselves someone like De Klerk. What would you tell the Israelis now?

['Arafat] Without doubt they should learn from the lessons of history, historical experience, and the peoples' experiences, namely that power is not everything.

'Ashrawi, Others React to 'Arafat-Peres Agreement

JN0507131295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0947 GMT 5 Jul 95

[From the "With the Midday Events" feature"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli-Palestinian agreement reached during the meeting held between Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Palestinian Authority President Yasir 'Arafat has drawn conflicting reactions. To know about these reactions, let us listen to the report compiled by our correspondent Yasir 'Atilah:

[Begin recording] ['Atilah] The views on and reactions to the Peres-'Arafat meeting have varied. Some people have said that the meeting has overlooked issues related to the redeployment and failed to get down to the nitty-gritty of the issue, whereas others viewed the outcome of the meeting as an initial understanding. Others viewed the understanding reached as an extension of the Oslo and Cairo accords that brought nothing new. A fourth group believes that the understanding reached has broken the stalemate plaguing the talks and paved the way for positive negotiations.

Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, general commissioner of the independent Palestinian Commission for Citizen Rights, says:

['Ashrawi] The outcome of the meeting cannot be described as an agreement. It is an initial understanding. That is, it reflects a desire to agree on a perspective and general principles and concepts. The only thing that has been agreed on is a target date for an agreement, which is 25 July. As a matter of fact, the 'Arafat-Peres talks addressed general issues, and failed to get down to the relevant details. As usual, they have left the details to be tackled in future negotiations. The talks pursued the same old course and resulted in the acceptance of incremental and partial moves. This is bound to produce disparities over implementation on the ground.

['Atilah] Will the agreement between the two sides to set a timetable for the release of Palestinian prisoners, and discuss the issue within the framework of the relevant committee leave an impact on the prisoners' position? It is to be recalled that any agreement on this issue will be part of the overall agreement to be signed by the two sides by 25 July.

['Ashrawi] I believe that this is only a single step. This step reflects a commitment to discuss the issue of the prisoners and detainees. An agreement on this issue will be part of the overall agreement, as you have said. The prisoners will be released gradually. This might positively influence the general atmosphere in which the prisoners live and the overall climate as well. Nonetheless, everybody is waiting to know the details.

['Atilah] Bashir al-Barghuthi, leader of the [Palestinian] People's Party, said that yesterday's talks overlooked issues related to the redeployment. The Declaration of Principles stated that the army redeployment should have been completed one year ago. And now, the redeployment will be delayed one more year, he argued.

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He added that this meeting produced a simple modification.

[Al-Barghuthi] The simple modification is that the Palestinian Authority was allowed to institute a Palestinian civil administration under the control of the occupation authorities. Hence, I believe that if implemented, and based on the reports published about it, this agreement would reflect an endorsement of the Israeli redeployment plan, which aims to grant the Palestinian Authority mere administrative and civil jurisdiction.

['Atilah] Will this agreement influence the positions and conduct of the prisoners and detainees, who are observing a hunger strike?

[Al-Barghuthi] I cannot see anything new in the declared agreement. For the Israeli authorities have previously spoken of a gradual release of the prisoners and detainees upon the recommendations of a relevant committee.

['Atilah] 'Ali Abu-Hilal, official of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, believes that the agreement is an extension of the Oslo and Cairo accords.

[Abu-Hilal] I believe that the agreement is an extension of the Oslo and Cairo accords. As far as substance is concerned, it does not provide anything new. This refutes all the Palestinian statements made a few days ago to the effect that the Palestinian Authority stuck to an army redeployment on all Palestinian areas in the West Bank.

['Atilah] Mr. 'Ali: We are in an interim period. The overall picture could change later.

[Abu-Hilal] That is true. Nevertheless, it is unclear what the situation will be in the upcoming stage. That is, Israel has not made any clear commitment to complete withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territories. [end recording]

'Abd-al-Rahim on Agreement, Prisoner Release

JN0507145395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1110 GMT 5 Jul 95

[Interview with al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the Palestinian Presidency, by Yusuf al-Qazzaz on 5 July; place not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Qazzaz] Mr. al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the presidency in the Palestinian National Authority, the meeting between President Yasir 'Arafat and Israel's Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has resulted in a statement of understanding of a general nature. Will this statement be followed by negotiations on the details?

['Abd-al-Rahim] There is no doubt about this. According to the statement, and as discussed during the official talks between the president and the Israeli foreign minister, brother Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'], head of the Palestinian delegation, and the Palestinian negotiating team will enter into focused and intensive negotiations with Uri Savir and the Israeli negotiating team as of tomorrow to finalize the transitional agreement on 25 July.

[Al-Qazzaz] Mr. al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, surely, there will be no guarantees regarding Israel's commitment to implementing what was agreed on?

['Abd-al-Rahim] As I said before, the negotiations will be focused and intensive. Agreement was reached on the broad lines. The negotiations will aim at drawing up the appendices and measures to implement them. I believe that the two sides are serious about reaching an agreement.

[Al-Qazzaz] Will arrangements for a gradual release of Palestinian prisoners be implemented under a joint Israeli-Palestinian ministerial umbrella?

['Abd-al-Rahim] Yes. This was agreed on during the talks and was announced in the joint statement. The issue of the brother and sister prisoners in Israeli jails received special attention during the talks. As you know brother Yusuf, a ministerial committee was formed between the Palestinian side, led by brother Dr. Nabil Sha'th, and the Israeli side, led by Israeli Interior Minister Moshe Shahal.

If brother Dr. Nabil Sha'th were not in Qatar on an official mission, carrying a message from the president to the new amir of Qatar, this committee would have met tomorrow. As soon as brother Dr. Nabil Sha'th is back, this committee will meet to set a timetable for a gradual release of sister and brother prisoners. As agreed during the talks and as announced in the joint statement, the gradual release of sister and brother prisoners is part of the transitional agreement.

Al-Husayni: Border To Be on 5 Jun 1967 Line

TA0607062395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Faysal al-Husayni says the interim stage agreement with Israel is contingent upon a map to be presented detailing Israel's security aims in different areas in the West Bank. In an interview with Qol Yisra'el, al-Husayni says the border is that of 5 June 1967, and only then will changes be possible with the agreement of both sides.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0405 GMT on 6 July includes an interview of Faysal al-Husayni by

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Yoni Ben-Menahem adding: "Faysal al-Husayni urges the Israeli Government to disarm the settlers in Judaea and Samaria, who oppose the Oslo accords. He says that the Palestinian side will disarm Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], while Israel should disarm the opponents of peace, otherwise armed settler militias will crop up in the West Bank."]

Autonomy Official on Conditions for Elections

TA0507161695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hakam Bal'awi, the person in charge of security in the autonomy, says that the Palestinians will agree to hold elections in the territories only after the IDF exits all West Bank towns, including Hebron. He told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that at the 'Arafat-Peres meeting yesterday no agreement, but rather understandings on several matters, were achieved and the moot points were defined anew.

Junayd Prisoners End Hunger Strike; Others Continue

JN0607085995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0500 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The leadership of the detainees and prisoners staging a political hunger strike in the Junayd prison has decided to suspend the strike, which began 18 days ago.

The statement, which suspended the strike as of 1700 yesterday, said: In view of the agreement reached between President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres on rescheduling the prisoners' release, and after a careful study of the overall situation, we in the Junayd prison have decided to suspend our hunger strike.

Representatives of the national forces and figures in Bethlehem have also suspended their hunger strike in compliance with the movement's decision in the Junayd central prison. In a statement issued yesterday evening, they stressed the need to implement the rescheduling agreement on the release of all male and female prisoners in the Israeli occupation prisons.

Red Cross sources in Hebron said that the Junayd prisoners in Nabulus will receive visits from their families as part of today's visits program in Jericho, Ramallah, and Jerusalem.

Prisoners in the Tel Mond, Ashqelon, and Beersheba prisons have refused to end their open hunger strike. [passage omitted]

Al-Husayni Continues Strike

TA0607102495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Faysal al-Husayni and several other Palestinian dignitaries are continuing the hunger strike despite the fact that security inmates of several prisons have ended the strike. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that in a news conference today, al-Husayni said he has decided to continue the strike until the state of the negotiations with Israel is clarified.

Meanwhile, Fatah activists deny that Yasir 'Arafat was the one who gave the order to stop the hunger strike at Peres' request.

PA To Close Three Institutions in Jerusalem

TA0407100295 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Jul 95 p 2

[Report by Evelyn Gordon]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Palestinian Authority [PA] has agreed to close down three institutions in Jerusalem, Police Minister Moshe Shahal said yesterday.

Shahal was talking to reporters about a bill by MK [Knesset member] Yehoshua Matza (Likud), which would make "governmental or quasi-governmental activity" by Palestinians within Israel a criminal offence.

The bill, which is specifically aimed at diplomatic activity in Orient House, was debated by the Knesset yesterday, but, at Matza's request, not voted on, since too many opposition MKs were at a demonstration in Qfar Sava.

According to Shahal, the government has evidence of activity in only four of the 14 PA institutions which Matza says operate in Jerusalem. Of these four, he said, the PA has agreed to close three: the Statistics, Housing and Information Bureaus. The fourth institution, which runs the Waqf, will require talks between Israel and the PA, he said.

Shahal said Matza's bill is a poor tool for his own purpose, because it would be virtually impossible to prove the criminal intent needed for a criminal conviction. The tools to stop Orient House's diplomatic activity, he said, are already contained in the Gaza-Jericho Agreement (Implementation) Law; and the Police and Foreign ministries will formulate a joint approach on how to enforce this law.

Matza retorted that the government has so far done nothing to enforce the Gaza-Jericho law. Instead, it has allowed Orient House to "endanger the unity of

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Jerusalem" and "daily humiliate the state of Israel," he said.

ALF Renews Rejection of PLO-Israel Accords

JN0507132495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Occupied territories, 1 Jul (INA)—The Arab Liberation Front [ALF] has reiterated its rejection of all agreements signed between the Zionist entity and the Palestinian authority.

In a statement today on the occasion of 1 July, the date set for an agreement between the Palestinian Authority and the Zionist entity, an official source in the ALF said: Continuing to play the game of negotiations despite the escalating Zionist campaign of terrorism and suppression, in which imprisonment and bullets are used against our people, will encourage the Zionist entity to continue its disregard of our people's rights, struggle, and aspirations. The source stressed that today's meeting between Peres and 'Arafat will lead to more Zionist gains.

The official source called on the Palestinian Authority to evaluate the process started in Madrid and crowned in Oslo and Cairo, to reconsider the whole negotiations process, to stop wagering on negotiations with the Zionist entity, and to go back to the people.

The source also called on the Palestinians to resist occupation with all possible means, and to escalate all forms of struggle against it until all the Palestinian soil has been liberated.

'Arafat, Italian Minister Sign Aid Agreement

JN0407200195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat received Italian Foreign Minister Mrs. Agnelli at the Presidency in Gaza this evening.

The meeting revolved around ways to enhance Palestinian-Italian relations, developments in the peace process, and the European role in building Palestinian infrastructure. More details in the following report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza:

[Begin Za'nun recording] Under the patronage of President Yasir 'Arafat, the National Authority and the Italian Government signed a cooperation agreement at the Presidency in Gaza today. The agreement was signed for the Palestinian side by Housing Minister Dr. Zakariya al-Agha, and for the Italian side by Italian Foreign Minister Susanna Agnelli. Under the agreement, the Italian Government will give the National Authority $30 million in aid.

President 'Arafat said Palestinian-Italian ties are distinguished. Following the signing ceremony, the president said: We do not forget what the Italian Government has offered the Palestinian people. He expressed hope that Italy will continue to offer aid.

For her part, the Italian foreign minister stressed that aid for the Palestinian people tops the priorities of her country's government. She said Italy will participate in supervising the forthcoming Palestinian legislative elections.

Asked why she did not visit Orient House, she said: If we are invited, it will give us pleasure to meet with Faysal al-Husayni. The minister said her country took part in building a juice factory in Gaza.

The Italian aid will be allocated to water desalination projects and other environmental and health projects. [end recording]

'Arafat Hopes Agnelli Will Visit Orient House

BR0507141595 Milan CORRIERE DELLA SERA in Italian 5 Jul 95 p 6

[Report on interview with Palestinian Authority President Yasir 'Arafat by Lorenzo Cremonesi in Gaza; date not given: "Palestine and Italy: Promised Aid, Memories; Andreotti Missed"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza — Yasir 'Arafat, a year on: a little more tired, but with the same air of someone seeking the elusive word, perhaps a few pounds overweight. He travels much less than he used to, and all in all life with Suha has made him more inclined to routine. In a month's time he will become a father. Then "Mr. Palestine" will be able to claim that he has completed his transformation, from a revolutionary leader to a calm statesman of a nation that he, more than anyone else, caused to be reborn from the ashes.

Our meeting took place, as always, at the end of an interminable working day. Negotiations with Israel over the "second phase" of autonomy are in full swing. But unlike the Tunis days, it was not 0200 hours, but only 2300 hours. In this regard too 'Arafat's habits have become more normal: He is in bed by midnight.

One thing has not changed at all: his aides still try to avert his now legendary bursts of anger. "Ask him simple questions, ask him about relations between Italy and Palestine." This was the suggestion made by Marwan Kanafani [name as published], who has been with him since the time of the Lebanese civil war. Mr. President, you were a great friend of Andreotti's, and you met with him again here in April. But Italy recently reduced its supply of aid. And Minister Agnelli

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will not be visiting Orient House, the Palestinian mission in East Jerusalem, either. Do you miss the old days? 'Arafat's eyes lit up at the mention of Andreotti. Three months ago we saw a very clear example of the different treatment granted to the Italian life senator. Prime Minister Rabin refused to met with him. Peres granted only a brief interview to TRENTA GIORNI's reporter. 'Arafat, however, received him with all honors, providing a limousine and an armed guard. The Palestine leader replied diplomatically: "We have followed the great changes that have marked the Italian political world. We understand the reasons for the cuts in aid to Palestine, and we can wait. But we are also convinced that the aid will return to the usual level soon, because there is still a great friendship between our two peoples." However, he did not fail to issue a sharp criticism of the failure to visit Orient House, especially at the present time, with the hawkish mayor, Yossi Olmert, who wants to close it down and to eliminate any PLO presence in the city. "Recently all European politicians, including Italians, have visited Orient House. I hope that Mrs. Agnelli too will find time to do so." Andreotti would certainly have gone, 'Arafat's aides told us.

On 1 July 1994 Abu 'Ammar (the Palestinian president's nom de guerre) entered Gaza to a hero's welcome. What are his failures and his successes? A recent internal document of the Israeli Foreign Ministry forms a very positive assessment of Abu 'Ammar: "He has had to deal with the terrible economic crisis and his people's exaggerated expectations," the document states. "A year later he shows himself capable of controlling the situation. Terrorism has diminished at last, and the economy too gives signs of hope. This shows that he is ready to extend his authority to the West Bank." For the first time, he did not conceal a smile. It is true, he made a strategic option for peace, and he will pursue it at all costs. "Ours is the peace of the brave. From the outset I knew that I was taking a very difficult path." He made it clearly understood that he is even willing to accept that elections be held with Israeli troops present in Hebron, the most difficult city of the West Bank.

He is well aware that he is the only one capable of persuading his people to accept compromise, while at the same time keeping alive the dream of an independent state. "The Israelis must realize that ours is an agreement to achieve peace — an asset as precious to us as it is to them — and not only to guarantee their security. Instead they persist in making any moves conditional on their own security."

Inevitably our talk turned to the subject of the fundamentalists. Last November his agents killed some 15 extremists in the heart of Gaza. Since then there have been increasing numbers of death threats against him. It is rumored that last month a bomb was found in his office. Three days ago he even said again that he too was a target of the terrorist commando that tried to assassinate Egyptian President Mubarak in Addis Ababa. "The Ethiopian military feared for my life and had me moved from the villa where I was a guest to the presidential palace." Do you too accuse Sudan of having led the conspiracy, as Mubarak does? 'Arafat has a simple explanation: "I spoke very frankly with the leaders of the Palestinian groups. We talked about the elections, in which they will be able to take part. They told me that they are willing to respect the people's interests." It was impossible not to end with a question about his daughter, who is due to be born before the end of the month. The man who until five years ago used to say that he was married only to Palestine still refused to open up: "My daughter? I hope for a future of peace for her, and for all future generations."

Correction to Editorial on Baghdad Lashing Out

WA0607125295

This correction pertains to the item headlined "Editorial: Baghdad May Lash Out This Summer," published in the 23 June Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 10-11:

Make sourceline read: 95AA0191B London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 9 Jun 95 p 1...(changing city name to London)

Arab-Israeli Talks

Quray', Savir Resume Negotiations on DOP

JN0507183895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian-Israeli negotiations resumed today to finalize agreement on the implementation of the second phase of the Declaration of Principles [DOP] before 25 July, in accordance with the statement of understanding reached between President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Gaza yesterday.

The Palestinian side to these negotiations is led by Ahmad Quray', minister of economy and trade, while the Israeli side is led by Uri Savir, director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry.

Power Transfer Talks To Resume in Cairo 11 Jul

NC0607130295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1218 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 6 Jul (MENA)—A round of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations over the transfer of

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powers to the Palestinian Authority ended today without progress on the issues under discussion.

Jamil al-Tarifi, head of the Palestinian delegation, said the two sides are still discussing the transfer of power in eight spheres, namely, agriculture, communications, electricity, gas, petroleum, municipal affairs, postal services, and insurance.

He added that another round of talks, to last four days, will begin in Cairo next Tuesday [11 July].

Hasan 'Usfur, a member of the Palestinian delegation, remarked that the Israelis are still "bargaining" and that no agreement has been reached on the unresolved issues.

[In a related item, Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1222 GMT on 6 July reports the following: "An Israeli delegation led by Oren Shahor that took part in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, which ended in Cairo earlier today, left for Israel at noon after a two-day visit."]

More Details on Peres-'Arafat 4 Jul Agreement

TA0507151795 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Jul 95 pp A1, A10

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Israel and the PLO yesterday reached an agreement on the principles of the security regime to be introduced in the West Bank and that the interim negotiations would be completed by 25 July. [passage omitted]

The following are the main points of the agreements worked out between Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat:

— Israel will remove the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] from six West Bank towns and hand over responsibility for security to the Palestinians. At first, the army will be deployed outside Janin, Tulkarm, Nabulus, and Qalqilyah. According to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, redeployment outside Bethlehem and Ramallah depends on completing the building of bypass roads. "We want to keep for ourselves arrangements like we have in Jericho, which permit movement of Israelis along the main roads inside the towns, but for that we do not need places like Tulkarm and Qalqilyah."

— Until the signing of the agreement, both sides will work on a way to hold elections for the Palestinian council in Hebron. Rabin said "we will not prevent 80,000 to 100,000 Palestinians from voting in the elections because of 415 Israelis."

In Zone B, which will include the Palestinian villages and the suburbs of Palestinian towns, overall responsibility for security will remain with Israel, and the IDF will be responsible for safeguarding the main roads on which Israelis will be travelling. "The roads will also be our full responsibility, except for those between villages, where there is almost no Israeli traffic," the prime minister said. Peres and 'Arafat agreed that Israel's security responsibility will have two purposes: To defend Israelis and to fight terrorism. There will be no permanent IDF installations in this area, only mobile forces.

— Responsibility for public order in the village areas will be handed over to the Palestinian Police. Rabin: "If somebody is raped, I do not want to get involved." But the movement of the Palestinian Police from one place to another will depend on prior coordination with Israel.

— There will not be joint patrols similar to those in Gaza, but there will be "joint mobile units" when the need arises, for example to deal with traffic accidents in which both Israeli and Palestinian vehicles are involved. Rabin approved Police Minister Moshe Shahal's proposal that the mobile units travel together in the same vehicle. The police received permission to recruit 200 officers for the joint mobile patrols.

— The second stage of the redeployment, when the IDF withdraws to agreed upon military areas, will not be finalized prior to mid- 1997, following the Israeli general elections.

— The PLO will abrogate the clauses in the Palestinian National Covenant calling for Israel's destruction within two months of the elections for the Palestine National Council. Rabin said yesterday that "if they do not make a commitment to amend the covenant, then there will be no second stage in the redeployment." [passage omitted]

Key Dates of Accord Reported

TA0507172895 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Jul 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] What about the agreement or the principles on the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in the West Bank, on which understanding was reached between Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at their meeting yesterday and which form the basis for the agreement slated to be signed on 25 July?

According to media sources, these are some of the agreed-on clauses and dates:

— In July 1995: Between 300 and 400 prisoners will be released within the coming days. Apparently, the agreement's signing ceremony will be held at the White House on 25 July. Five hundred prisoners will be released after the signing.

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— In September 1995: In the middle of the month 700 international observers will begin arriving in the territories to supervise the elections.

— In November 1995: At the beginning of the month, 22 days before the elections, the IDF will withdraw from four towns — Janin, Tulkarm, Qalqilyah, and Nabulus. At the same time, 1,700 Palestinian policemen will enter these towns. Five hundred prisoners will be released with the evacuation of the four towns. Elections for the self-rule council and the post of president will be held at the end of the month.

— In December 1995: The IDF will evacuate Ramallah and Bethlehem by the end of the month. The evacuation will depend on the completion of the construction of bypass roads.

— In May 1996: Talks on a permanent settlement will begin.

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Algeria

Zeroual Addresses Higher Youth Council

LD0507170095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1228 GMT 5 Jul 95

[Speech by President Liamine Zeroual at a ceremony marking the official installation of the Higher Youth Council in Algiers on 5 July — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Ladies and gentlemen, youth representatives, speaker of the Transitional National Council, prime minister:

At the beginning and on the occasion of our celebrations today marking the recovering of our national sovereignty, our thoughts and feelings are directed toward our reverent martyrs. I invite you to stand up in remembrance of the their pure souls. Thank you.

Dear brothers, the martyrs of the glorious November revolution represent the highest symbol of the courageous struggle waged by all Algerian people to regain its position in the forum of the sovereign states. Independence is an inheritance from our reverent martyrs that we should preserve and continuously consolidate. Real independence requires defending and strengthening every day. This is the very complete message, which the linking of independence anniversary with the national day of youth has derived from. Our youth represents the strength and future of the homeland.

Ladies and gentlemen, at this very symbolic occasion we must all recall that in the glorious November mission the recovery of our national sovereignty was not an end in itself but was to be the beginning of a continuous effort to renew the objectives defined by struggling Algeria for independent Algeria. Those objectives were the eradication of injustice, the realization of national development, and the building of a democratic and modern state through loyalty to our deep rooted principles and values.

Furthermore, the Algerian people had a pledge to its martyrs to be continuously vigillant so as to protect the fruits of their huge sacrifices.

These are the tasks every generation must undertake by utilizing the already accomplished achievements and shouldering the burden of committed mistakes.

Ladies and gentlemen, I put forward at my address to the nation on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the glorious November revolution my assessment of our recent history and of our current condition. It was an assessment that reflects the daily sentiments of our citizens. I had the opportunity at that occasion to stress the numerous achievements realized after the recovery of our independence. They were, no doubt, numerous achievements that nobody can ignore in addition to other achievements that had not been completed. I also referred to the mistakes and deviations that emerged and to the damages and difficulties we inherited from them. I also reaffirmed at the same occasion the necessity for a national uprising in order to make a correction that would allow us as a nation to maintain our independence and enhance it. Thanks to God, this national uprising appears today in a wider and stronger form among our people as reflected by a number of registered indications.

Indeed, the patriots are standing today with increasing numbers to confront those who slipped into the adventure of crime. The adventure, after removing its numerous veils, revealed its sole objective — the destruction of Algeria.

In the same way and despite the brutal criminality that is not sparing any of our people's categories, citizens are pursuing the effort of national edification. Furthermore, several elements among our sons, who have gone astray, are recovering their consciences, thanks be to God. Many of them have chosen to return to the their positions within the fold of the nation.

Regarding the date of the presidential elections, during which the Algerians will exercise their free choice, our people are mobilizing forces to prepare them and getting the citizens' positive response.

Parallel to this, all means have been provided so as to reactivate the economy. At the same time, the process of inevitable reforms has been set up, as well as the mechanisms for safeguarding national solidarity and promoting social justice.

Yes, dear citizens, the national reorganization is taking place indeed. It is being inspired by the deep-rooted traditions that characterize the Algerian people — the traditions of resistance and amazing struggle capabilities in the face of all challenges.

This assessment also replaces the facts that pushed our youth to despair. Our youth today itself is one of the creators of this renewal at all sectors of our national life.

On this special day, the Algerian nation has every right to record with pride its genuine recovery of the traditions of commitments and mobilization. At the same time such a day represents the best opportunity to stress that the course of the national uprising charge us all to concentrate on the future with more mobilization and effort to maintain the momentum of the national correction and its correct direction.

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Ladies and gentlemen, our country's modern history teaches us that our people's great enthusiasm and our magnificent national projects have often been weakened by demagoguery at the expense of facts and favoring easy solutions to intense and continuous efforts. They have also been weakened by the maneuvers of hidden interests, which are threatened by change.

At this phase when the Algerian people are shouldering continuous responsibility in national edification and facing up to the challenges imposed on us to safeguard the homeland, vigilance is a decisive duty as well as an important commitment for each one of us.

In this respect, there are a few observations that impose themselves to avoid slackening and avert disappointment. First, the final establishment of security and the recovery of stability are targets that require endurance despite the tangible progress that has been achieved. Indeed, we must not forget during this tragedy, which is spreading sadness across our nation, that we are facing up to internal power-hungry forces colluding with secret foreign forces instigated by ambitions of hegemony over our homeland. We must not forget either that those who have been dragged in the adventure against the homeland are our sons, too.

Translated Text] Therefore, the total elimination of the pest of terrorism and breaking off the vicious circle of violence rejected by our society require we work relentlessly on continuing our national vigilance, maintain the firmness of our security forces, and keep the nation's hand extended toward its sons who have gone astray.

Second, the political crisis facing our country has known a profound clarification thanks to dialogue and direct commitment to the Algerian people. However, there are still stages that need to be covered by means everybody has become fully aware of.

The national dialogue, which constitutes a civilizational virtue and a required necessity for everyone to face up to the problems facing our nation, will remain continuously open. My personal conviction in this dialogue remains deep if its fundamental elements are respected. Indeed, there is no value or essence in dialogue except in Algeria and among the Algerians only.

I repeat, indeed, there is no value or essence to the dialogue except in Algeria and among the Algerians only.

The dialogue cannot make any progress unless it is held within an inevitable framework and constants, such as the rejection of violence, respect for the constitution, and respect for the republic's laws.

Finally, there will be no genuine national character for this dialogue unless it is freed from all attempts to exploit it at the expense of a genuine and permanent national reconciliation or even more at the expense of the sovereign right of the nation to practice its free choice.

Therefore, we must all shoulder responsibility before God and before the Algerian people who will judge the intentions of all.

In line with this, Algeria is coming close to the presidential elections that will take place before the end of this year, God willing. This date is an opportunity for all those who want to act, or pretend to be acting on behalf of the nation to seek from now on the blessing of the nation, away from prejudice and misrepresentation of facts, and from sowing the seeds of doubt and despair among citizens. The presidential elections will no doubt invigorate the authentic democratic multipartyism that the Algerian people want for themselves. These elections will also give a decisive impulse to the break with the past that all citizens call for.

Therefore, I urge Algerians, men and women, to further mobilize for these presidential elections, which will give substance to their sovereign will. As far as it is concerned, the state is seeking to secure the conditions of calm and security for this consultation. Likewise, together with those who will be taking part in these elections, the state will be seeking to guarantee free choice by citizens.

In the third place, nobody, whoever it is, while assessing the national conditions, can forget that the Algerian people are facing an acute economic crisis, a crisis that requires mutual commitment, sacrifices, and changes to overcome. This crisis was yesterday the exposer of the various defects of our national system. Therefore, its components are today the chosen field in which all base maneuverings are being played to hinder change. Therefore, to tackle the economic side of the crisis requires the reasoning and awareness of every citizen.

It is true that the social difficulties facing our people today are very acute; however, nobody, whoever it is, can conceal the hard economic facts facing our country. They are unacceptable facts for Algeria, which should maintain its national independence and enhance it. Indeed, the exclusive method of resorting to foreign debts and the increasing danger of foreign subservience to meet our needs, including food, is not the way to maintain our national independence.

Also, to remain a spectator and do nothing to rectify the deteriorating situation in our public economy, which

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was very expensive to build, and to continue marginalizing the producing sources of our private sector, will not the best way to bring in the investment necessary for realizing our economic independence.

Also, to remain a spectator and do nothing to rectify the spiralling shortages to meet our needs for housing, employment, and other social needs is not the best way to secure the future of Algeria, a country with a large population of young people.

It is paramount, therefore, to carry out courageous reforms to rectify this situation and to acknowledge the realities of our economy, however bitter these realities might be.

This is an avoidable necessity in view of past experience when the country paid dearly for trying to implement half-baked solutions and carry on regardless.

Hence, a real and continuous development based on renewable resources is the only means that will protect Algeria from serious upheavals in future.

Thanks be to God, Algeria possesses in abundance the real means to guarantee its lasting development. It is incumbent on all of us to act in order to avoid putting them at risk merely for consumption, luxury items, and immediate comfort.

But at the same time, it is incumbent on all of us to take care to safeguard the sacrifices demanded today against deviation from their course because of bureaucracy, nepotism, easy profits, and hidden interests, or from the danger of our national economy being corrupted.

The authorities of the transitional period accord, and will always accord, the greatest importance to the promotion and deepening of the dialogue between the economic partners and the maintenance of social justice and national solidarity.

On the other hand, the state apparatus in its entirety must take care to apply to itself the austerity being borne by our people and to rigorously combat all forms of waste and negligence.

At the same time, I call upon the Algerian people, particularly the workers, to be farsighted and wakeful.

The Algerian people have urgent legitimate needs that must be fulfilled in the best of ways, and in particular, in the most fair possible ways. Likewise, the Algerian people have responsibilities to our new generations. It is with this approach and only this approach we can draw all the useful lessons from mistakes that have left their marks on our countries from a not-too-distant past. Ladies and gentlemen, the national reform that should be introduced in Algeria is a long and exacting labor that goes beyond the restrictions of a crisis that, at any rate, results from particular circumstances in all its dimensions, whether regarding the security that must be restored, or the democratic, multiparty system that must be completed, or even the economic crisis that must be contained. Such a national reform must be an occasion for Algeria to realize a strong continuity between its past and future. Yes, dear citizens, our glorious past is rich with its cultural wealth and great spiritual dimension that has already vanquished obscurantism [euphemism used in the Maghreb to mean religious fundamentalism]. It is also rich with its response to the need for commitment and struggle. This past was embodied by the glorious November revolution with its mission and sacrifices. Yes, we are a country that is strong with its unity, an authentic and diversified country, a country at the crossroads of civilizations that it had enriched throughout a deep-rooted history, a country at the crossroads of groups in which it must occupy the place it deserves.

Therefore, Algeria should rightly aspire to a future as a nation committed to its values and, at the same time, open to modernity, a strong and a respected nation, a nation that inspires to win the stakes of a continuous economic development in the next millennium, a nation that is very jealous of its independence and national sovereignty.

However, we will only be able to honor the legacy of our glorious martyrs if we were to commit ourselves to achieving the above aims.

Yesterday we managed to regain our national sovereignty thanks to the mobilization and participation of the whole nation in the struggle for national liberation. Today, we should be able to secure our future national development in line with our real potentials and with the participation of all citizens.

Therefore, and in addition to the pluralist institutional democracy our country has to complete, Algeria should realize the widest participation in the preparation and follow-up of its various achievements. This was the aim of the councils set up during the transitional period. They were bodies given the task of directing and establishing the course of the dialogue and mobilization within our society on a permanent bases. No doubt the Higher Youth Council, which is gathering us today, is a symbol to this culture of participation, a symbol of the will of total mobilization and real continuation of the national reform through the generations.

Ladies and gentlemen, this transitional period had earlier seen the actual participation of the youth in the Transitional National Council and in the National Economic and Social Council, in addition to their council that is being formed.

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Our youth will also have their place in all the bodies of national debate that are to be set up. All this endeavor falls within the course of the change and break with the past that Algeria must bring about. Regarding the youth in particular, they must give this change and this break with the past a deeper dimension.

Before all else, this matter is related to giving this force, which is vital to the nation, its rightful place in a society where it represents the basic element. Then the youth must be made to share more and more in preparing our national future, and thanks to this active participation, our youth will be enabled to appreciate the true public effort the nation is dedicating to providing their growing requirements.

In return, the nation will better be able to pay attention to the preoccupations and aspirations of its youth.

Finally, this matter is related to strengthening the spirit of national duty among our youth, a duty they are called upon to assume more and more every day, to build their future, which is indivisible from the future of the nation.

In this respect I call on the youth to maintain the originality of our national identity. I also call on them to take their inspirations from their heroic ancestors, our martyrs, and to avoid the manifestations of deviations and delusions our country has been witnessing.

I call on them also to appreciate effort and commitment as the only criteria that appeal to each and everyone.

I would like to seize this historic opportunity to call once again on our sons who have gone astray to return with increasing numbers to the fold of the homeland, the homeland that is awaiting their positive contribution rather than their attempt to destroy it.

Finally, I would like to call on all Algerian youth to give up despair and to make the future of hope to which they are the symbol.

I am sure that our youth will also have an appointment with history at this decisive period through which our country is passing.

While officially announcing the installation of the Higher Youth Council, I would like to address all members of this blessed body to congratulate them on the their selection and wish them success in their mission in serving the interests of the Algerian youth.

Glory and immortality to our faithful martyrs, long live Algeria, and peace and God's blessings be upon you.

Presence of GIA in East Reportedly 'About To End'

MM0407090395 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 Jul 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Kamil al-Tawil: A 'Blow' To Algeria Group: Its Amir In The East Has Been Killed"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London — Reliable Algerian sources stressed to AL-HAYAH yesterday that the Armed Islamic Group's [GIA] military presence in east Algeria "is about to end" And that unspecified numbers of its elements have joined the Islamic Salvation Army [AIS]. The sources stressed that the AIS, headed by Shaykh Madani Mezrak, approves of the current contacts between the authorities and Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] leaders. In fact it is one of the parties that has from the outset encouraged the resumption of the dialogue between the two sides.

The sources pointed out that "an atmosphere of optimism is currently dominating Algerian political circles, which expect "measures" to be announced within a few days to pave the way for a peaceful solution to the crisis. There has been no information about the outcome of the meeting scheduled to be held yesterday between President Liamine Zeroual and senior Army officers to settle the issue of the dialogue between the two sides. [passage omitted]

Reliable Algerian sources spoke yesterday about the background of the resumption of the dialogue between the authorities and FIS leaders. They pointed out that the FIS' field leaders have openly expressed their indignation at the GIA's actions and those of "groups associating themselves" with this group, which is the most extremist in the country. The sources added that this indignation was conveyed to the FIS' detained leaders, who were urged to take a clear position to deny the group's actions a cover. It seems that FIS leaders were hesitant at first to declare opposition the group that would lead to "seditious behavior" or infighting among the groups. But they changed their opinion recently under pressure from AIS supporters.

The sources pointed out that the AIS has for some time expanded the zone of its influence at the GIA's expense, especially in the east and the west. The sources said that incidents in the east were bloody sometimes. And that they started during 'Id al-Adha last May when an armed group belonging to the GIA attacked a party organized by AIS supporters, who retaliated by pursuing GIA supporters.

The sources said that the GIA was dealt a "fatal blow" when its "amir" [leader], Radouan Achir, 26, was killed in mysterious circumstances. It was reported that security forces killed him, but that has not been

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confirmed. In fact there is information to the effect that his supporters killed him when they discovered that he was working for the security services. [passage omitted]

Split Said 'Powerful Blow' to Armed Islamic Group

MM0507133095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 Jul 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Kamil al-Tawil: "Big Split in Algerian Group: Salvation Front, Leading Figure Pull Out of 'Algerianization Group'"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London — While it has been reported in Algeria that senior military leaders yesterday continued the meetings they started behind the scenes last week to settle the question relating to the current dialogue between the advisers to the head of state and Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] leaders, the Armed Islamic Group [GIA] has witnessed the biggest split of its kind since the unity statement in the spring of 1994. Shaykh Abdelrazak Radjam has announced his withdrawal from the GIA. He signed the FIS statement on joining it 14 months ago.

Radjam's announcement represents a very powerful blow to the GIA. Because it denies cover to the FIS supporters who joined. Perhaps the other announcement that is equally important is the split of a tendency from the "Algerianization group," led by Shaykh Mohamed Said, from the GIA and its announcement of an allegiance pledge for the Islamic Salvation Army [AIS] amir Shaykh Madani Mezrak. Yousef Boubras, a leading member of the Algerianization group, represents those who have broken away from Shaykh Said's tendency, which seems to have stayed in the GIA, currently headed by Abu Abderrahmane Amin (Djamal Zitouni).

Radjam's and Boubras' position was revealed in an undated statement, a copy of which AL-HAYAH received yesterday.

The statement on the split by Radjam, who is in charge of the national information committee in the FIS, and Boubras, "national coordinator" in the FIS, said that the FIS announces its withdrawal "from the GIA since it has been conclusively and irrefutably proved that this organization has deviated from the framework chosen by Almighty God for his good servants and since its leaders have followed their own whims and hence strayed from the right path."

The statement added that "the FIS National Executive Bureau, which was represented in the unity meeting (through Radjam and Boubras), completely dissociates itself from the GIA now that it has become clear that the latter is using some former FIS leaders in order to secure some credibility before the Muslim Algerian people in order to kill innocent people and hold women captive. Some of their preachers have actually sanctioned murdering women and trying to blame the [ruling] clique for the operation — which everyone agrees is a crime."

Radjam and Boubras added: "We announce our blessing for the AIS and pledge allegiance to national amir Madani Mezrak on behalf of the shaykhs (FIS leaders), may God secure their release."

Their statement went on to say: "To clear our conscience before God, the nation, and history, we declare that the Algerianization group, first and foremost Mohamed Said, is the cause of the sedition among the brother-mujahidin. That group has objectives which the brother-mujahidin know. What is concealed is even worse. A detailed report will be sent to all amirs on the conspiracies against the jihad arena. God is our witness."

They urged "sincere mujahidin who have pledged allegiance to Brother-Mujahid Madani Mezrak to continue the jihad and the FIS' mission." [passage omitted]

AL-HAYAH yesterday asked Anouar Haddam, head of the FIS Parliamentary Mission Abroad, to comment on the statement, but he said that neither Radjam or Boubras had contacted him, hence he could not comment on it. Haddam belongs to the Algerianization tendency, led by Mohamed Said. He supported the unity statement, but insisted that it does not mean the FIS' absorption into the GIA, but, rather, a unification of the armed forces against the regime. [passage omitted]

FIS Contacts Confirmed; Leaders Reportedly Moved

MM2806100595 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 27 Jun 95 p 6

[Reports by Jamal Khashuqji in London and AL-HAYAH bureau in Algiers: "FIS Confirms Active Contacts with Algerian Authorities and Reports Its Leaders' Transfer to Another Residence"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A leading figure in the banned Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] yesterday confirmed to AL-HAYAH that contacts are currently under way between the FIS leaders and the Algerian authorities.

The Algerian official television station (AFP) yesterday evening confirmed for the first time the existence of contacts between the Algerian presidency and Islamic officials, but it strongly condemned the reports published by AL-HAYAH on the nature of the negotiations between the two sides. [passage omitted]

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AL-HAYAH has learned from a reliable source in Algeria that FIS leaders Abbassi Madani, Ali Belhadj, and Abdelkader Hachani have been moved to the Djenan El Mabrouk villa in the Ain Benian area, northwest of the Algerian capital. It has also been reported that Shaykh Madani's son Oqbah has left for Germany, where the FIS leader's family and some FIS officials live. The reason for his departure is not known, nor is it known whether he is carrying a message from his father for his brothers or for FIS Executive Committee Chairman Rabeh Kebir.

In London, Kamareddine Kharban, deputy chairman of FIS Executive Committee, has confirmed contacts between the authorities and FIS. In a telephone statement to AL-HAYAH, he said: "The negotiations between us and them have not stopped. They have been cool at times but are at an active stage now and we hope that, God willing, they will produce results that will restore amity and fraternity among the Algerian people."

Kharban declined to comment on the published details of the expected agreement. He just said: "Some circles which do not want accord are leaking false reports to prevent agreement. It is preferable for the time being to let matters proceed quietly." He did stress, however, that any agreement reached "would not marginalize any of the real patriotic forces and would have the unanimous support of FIS leaders."

He attacked certain forces "outside the negotiations," accusing them of "seeking to impede accord. It is better to keep these forces away from the details of the agreement, because in the past they have succeeded in foiling negotiations."

He declined to name these forces. He said: "It is a group of civilian and military people whose material and ideological interests run contrary to the interests of the vast majority of the Algerian people." He added that the biggest problem facing the negotiations was "the numerous and conflicting views in the authorities' ranks and the presence of individuals with unclear intentions."

On the position of Shaykh Ali Belhadj in the current negotiations, he said: "The forces opposed to accord have tried to cause differences between the FIS leaders but have repeatedly failed. Their latest attempt was the claim that there was an intention to release Shaykh Abbassi Madani and Shaykh Abdelkader Hachani but not Shaykh Ali Belhadj. That is not true. If the shaykhs come out of detention, they either all come out or they all stay in."

On the position of the FIS leadership abroad, he said: "The contacts include most of the legitimate FIS leaders at home. We trust them. We know what takes place, and what is acceptable to the majority is acceptable to us."

'Semi-Agreement in Principle' Reached With FIS

MM0307130095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 1 Jul 95 pp 1, 6

[Unattributed report: "Algerian Military To Settle Issue of Dialogue With Salvation Front"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, AL-HAYAH — Algerian sources expect President Liamine Zeroual to hold an important assessment meeting with commanders of the National People's Army today, Saturday [1 July]. It will deal with the contacts conducted while he was away between the authorities and Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] leaders. It will also study the plan to amnesty some FIS leaders and supporters, the presidential elections and the candidates, and the issue of promoting a number of officers. The meeting might also settle the issue of changes said to be made in the military command so as to coincide with the announcement of the outcome of the contacts with FIS leaders. Some of these decisions are expected to be revealed in President Zeroual's address to the Algerian people on the eve of the celebrations marking the 33d anniversary of independence.

The meeting is expected to be attended by Major General Mohamed Lamari (the Army chief of staff), Gen. Khaled Nezzar (former defense minister), Gen. Toufik Mediene (military intelligence chief), and Gen. Mohamed Bitchin (adviser to the head of state).

Reliable sources have told AL-HAYAH that the rounds of contacts between the authorities and the FIS have been conducted at two levels:

First, the head of state level. These have been led by Gen. Mohamed Bitchin with the participation of Yousif Khatib (former head of the dialogue committee and adviser to the head of state) and Ahmed Abu Yahya (director of the presidential court). The sources said that the two parties (the presidency and the FIS) reached "semi-agreement in principle" on the following:

1. Agreeing to change the FIS' name in return for allowing it to resume [political] action under another name.

2. A general amnesty in return for a statement condemning violence.

3. Providing guarantees for both parties.

4. Setting a timetable for presidential, legislative, provincial, and municipal elections.

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Second, FIS leaders insisted on holding a direct meeting with commanders from the Army representing — according to the FIS — the "real authority" in the country. It did not happen easily — which caused the contacts to falter for several days. The contacts were resumed only after the "intervention" of quarters "friendly" with the regime in Algeria.

Following these efforts, the contacts continued at another level, led by Maj. Gen. Khaled Nezzar with the participation of Maj. Gen. Mohamed Lamari, the Army chief of staff, and Gen. Toufik Mediene (military intelligence chief).

Leaked information about these contacts says that the dialogue dealt with guarantees for both parties and the general amnesty. Military leaders focused on an amnesty for "gunmen" among FIS supporters.

Today's meeting is expected to result in a decisive position from the military leadership under Liamine Zeroual: Either to continue the dialogue and reconciliation or to move toward "all-out confrontation."

There is a prevalent belief that the meeting will also settle the question of the candidate for the presidential elections: Either by naming Zeroual as president without contesting the elections on the pretext that he has led the dialogue and national reconciliation process since his appointment as defense minister, that he visited FIS leaders in the Blida military prison, and that he personally followed up the dialogue. Or by naming somebody else.

Supporters of the view backing Zeroual, first and foremost Gen. Mohamed Bitchin — believe that the head of state might be the only one qualified to provide guarantees for the FIS.

Another group among the military leadership believes that Dr. Taleb Brahimi is more acceptable to the "conflicting" parties and that he could be the "compromise" candidate.

Nevertheless, the FIS leadership does not see Liamine Zeroual or Ahmed Taleb Brahimi as "a sufficient guarantee;" they are "a goodwill guarantee."

The FIS is also demanding the formation of a presidential council with extensive powers from among the Army, society, the parties to the national covenant, and independent political forces in order to supervise the election processes. [passage omitted]

Release of Some FIS Leaders Said Possible

MM0307134995 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 3 Jul 95 pp 1, 6

[Unattributed report: "Madani, Hachani To Be Released After Independence Day.... Belhadj To Remain Under House Arrest; Algeria Says Zeroual Dismisses Interior Minister"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, AL-HAYAH — Ambiguity continued to surround the results of the meeting headed by Algerian President Liamine Zeroual on Saturday [1 July], which included senior officers from the military establishment. There had been reports to the effect that the main disagreement which the participants were trying to iron out was the issue of releasing Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] leaders.

In a step which observers regard as a goodwill gesture toward the Islamists, President Zeroual announced yesterday the dismissal of Interior Minister Abderrahmane Meziane-Cherif, who is known for his hard-line position. However, Algerian sources questioned the significance of Cherif's dismissal, since the person who has replaced him is also from the hard-line wing in the authorities. New Interior Minister Mustapha Ben Mansour was previously governor of Annaba. He has held several posts in Algerian provinces since the eighties.

Meanwhile, well-informed Algerian sources expect the military leadership to release Shaykhs Abassi Madani and Abdelkader Hachani, but after Independence Day, which is the day after tomorrow, Wednesday. The sources said that the authorities "do not want to associate a national occasion with a special case, namely the case of the disbanded party (the FIS). The sources said that the release of FIS leaders is not expected to include deputy leader Shaykh Ali Belhadj, noting that that the idea faces widespread opposition among leaders of the military establishment.

It is not known how the FIS will react to the decision to release one section of its leadership (Madani and Hachani) and to keep the other (Belhadj) under house arrest. However, some people believe that the FIS will agree to this, recalling that Shaykhs Ali Djedi, Kamal Geumazi, Abdelkader Boukhamkham, Noureddine Chikara, and Abdelkader Omar refused to be released from prison unless the other leaders were released, but later accepted and were released in two groups (in 1994). [passage omitted]

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FIS Split on Condemnation of Armed Groups

MM0507160995 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Jul 95 pp 1, 4

[Reports by Salah Jamil in London and Muhammad Sadiq in Washington: "Algerian Salvation Front Disavows Armed Group"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Relations between the Algerian [Islamic] Salvation Front [FIS], represented by its military wing, the Islamic Salvation Army [AIS], and the [Islamic] Armed Group [GIA] yesterday reached the point of complete boycott, despite denials by FIS officials of the war of words that went on for months between publications said to belong to the two organizations and some reports about armed confrontations between them.

In a statement of which AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has obtained a copy, the FIS National Executive Bureau has disavowed the GIA "after it was categorically proved on irrefutable evidence that that organization violated God's shari'ah... and after its leaders followed their whims and went separate ways." [passage omitted]

It should be recalled that FIS leader Shaykh Abbassi Madani recently recorded on videotape a call for the renunciation of violence — one of the conditions set by the government for ending the ban on the FIS. The FIS also previously condemned "the wave of blind violence and the abominable crimes, especially against women and children," attributed to the GIA.

The recent statement, however, completely contradicts statements made by Anouar Haddam, head of FIS' Parliamentary Mission Abroad, who lives in Washington, in which he announced that it had been agreed to unify AIS and the GIA.

While, in statements to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, FIS sources in London and elsewhere confirmed the authenticity of the statement, Haddam has cast doubt on it, saying that "it (the statement) is a part of the media campaign. Whenever we get close to a political solution to the crisis, some circles begin to sow sedition."

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday, Haddam said: "If it were true, we would have been contacted before and would have been contacted after (the statement), but that did not happen. We doubt the statement. In fact, I am sure that it is not true and is simply part of the media campaign. Whenever we get close to a political solution to the crisis, some circles begin to sow sedition."

When told that the statement was signed by Radjam and Boubras, he replied: "We doubt that it was signed by them and we doubt its authenticity. To stamp a seal on a statement is easy. What is important is that the content is not true. So we doubt its authenticity until the matter becomes clear. That is what we have to say so far. We emphasize that the aim is to distract people's attention from the attempts being made to find a political solution. The aim may also be to cover up the internal conflict within the region. They plant such statements. I am one hundred-percent sure that it is not true, until the opposite is established." He added: "What the statement says about the so-called Djezara [Algerianization] is not true. The so-called Djezara was what maintained the genuine FIS line and still does. It is a known fact that whenever the pressure intensifies on the regime it resorts to such propaganda against the so-called Djezara, which is a genuine Islamic group that has contributed considerably to preserving the genuine FIS line, and it still does."

Official Says FIS Leaders Must Condemn 'Terrorism'

MM3006155595 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 30 Jun 95 p 6

[Report on interview with Dr. Djemal Ould Abbes, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Algerian Transitional National Assembly, by Iskandar al-Dik on 29 June; place not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Bonn — Dr. Djemal Ould Abbes, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Algerian transitional National Assembly, says that the current negotiations between former officials of the dissolved Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] and some state officials are not about participation or nonparticipation in the presidential election. The aim, he maintains, is to isolate the extremist armed groups and revive the democratic process in the country.

In an interview with AL-HAYAH yesterday Abbes said that the parliamentary and political contacts he held in Bonn had produced "a positive surprise in the full sense of the word." He added: "I say gladly and frankly that we got a full and comprehensive response to the current situation in Algeria." He said that the direct effect of the German understanding was reflected in the decisions of the Christian Democratic Party and the Democratic Socialist Party to send separate delegations next September to observe the situation there and to hold talks with the various parties. He added that his German colleagues had asked what they could do to help and his answer had been that, on behalf of his country, he was asking "that Algerian refugees be treated humanely in accordance with current laws, with the exception of those who come here to collect funds and smuggle arms to Algeria to kill people."

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Abbes said that the presidential election would certainly take place before 15 December, that President Zeroual has decided to invite international observers to supervise it, and that, for the first time in Algeria, a national committee with representatives from all Algerian parties and societies would be formed to supervise the election. The Algerian official said that "if the FIS officials agree to issue an official declaration denying responsibility for the current terrorist operations and condemning those operations, then they could rejoin the political democratic process under different names, because the FIS has been dissolved and that decision is irrevocable."

RCD Leader Opposes FIS Rehabilitation

LD2906225095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 29 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Said Sadi,leader of the Rally for Culture and Democracy [RCD], held a news conference today at El Djazair Hotel in the capital during which he touched on numerous political issues raised in the national arena.

Concerning his call for the formation of a democratic axis, he pointed out that the aim of this is not to appoint a leader, but to rally ourselves and find more suitable political solutions to enable the citizens to confront the difficult situation without exposing themselves to danger.

Concerning the presidential elections, Said Sadi renewed his party's stance, and said: We cannot be democratic and reject elections.

According to Said Sadi, the elections are not an aim, but a means which respond to three security, political, and administrative requirements.

Concerning a question on the rehabilitation of the dissolved party [Islamic Salvation Front, FIS], Said Sadi said that he is against rehabilitating this party.

On the RCD's position toward the stances of the Socialist Forces Front [FFS], Said Sadi said that the position of the FFS leaders represented some Islamic stance.

At the end of the news conference, Said Sadi touched on the Tamazight issue, and called for an attempt to assume entire responsibility for the Tamazight language.

Need for Political Dialogue Stressed on National Day

MM0507144095 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Jul 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Salah Jamil: "On Occasion of Independence Anniversary, Algerian Opposition Urges Reconciliation"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London — As Algeria prepares to celebrate its independence day tomorrow in an atmosphere of optimism and speculations about new initiatives to end the bloody political crisis which has plagued the country for over three years, and bearing in mind the reports which have been circulating for some time about contacts between the government and the [Islamic] Salvation Front [FIS], there have been conflicting reactions by some opposition leaders to these speculations and developments, particularly President Liamine Zeroual's decision the day before yesterday to dismiss Interior Minister Abderrahmane Meziane-Cherif and the effect of that decision on the attempts to resolve the crisis.

On the occasion of the independence anniversary, the Algerian National Liberation Front [FLN] issued a statement yesterday calling for "an end to the policy of confrontation through reconciliation between Algerians, abolition of the restrictions imposed on individual and collective public freedoms, and revival of the true popular will and legitimate institutions."

The statement said: "Algerians are required today to call, in an orderly manner and by all available peaceful means, for an end to the bloodshed and for a peaceful, just, and comprehensive solution to the crisis."

Khaled Ismail, secretary general of the Movement for Democracy in Algeria which is led by former President Ahmed Ben Bella, told AL- SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday that the importance of the developments of the past weeks should not be exaggerated. He said that his movement, which signed the national covenant in Rome last January with seven other Algerian organizations including FIS, saw no indications of positive developments in the Algerian situation. He added that it was difficult to verify what was going on between the government and FIS because of the secrecy shrouding their contacts.

On the decision to dismiss Meziane-Cherif, Ismail said that, regardless of the causes and motives behind that decision, government changes "do not affect the general policy of the government." He stressed that what was required was "a dialogue without exclusions, negotiations based on the national convenant, and guarantees which

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everyone, including the government, would promise to honor."

Ismail repeated the movement's rejection of the presidential elections. He said: "We still insist on dialogue." He also said that coordination was continuing among the signatories of the national covenant with the aim of proceeding with the field action program agreed around the end of last April. [passage omitted]

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Shaykh Mahfoud Nahnah, leader of the Islamic Society Movement (HAMAS), said that Algeria "will witness significant political developments in favor of a peaceful political solution crowning the efforts and endeavors made to promote reconciliation between Algerians."

But Nahnah played down the importance of the dismissal of Meziane-Cherif. He said: "We in HAMAS expect political changes that will absorb the various political trends and views as well as the people's aspiration to development, stability, and democracy." [passage omitted]

He added: "We in HAMAS believe that the solution lies in dialogue with the various influential parties and that any settlement with one party would be an oversimplification of the crisis, would not constitute a radical and final solution, would be the wrong remedy for the country's crisis, and would, above all, have negative repercussions for such parties and for the people's stability and security." [passage omitted]

Egypt

Commentaries Continue on Sudan, al-Bashir

Sudanese Ready 'To Get Rid of' Regime

NC2906174095 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1252 GMT 29 Jun 95

[Commentary by 'Atif 'Umar: The Sudanese People Will Not Remain Silent Over Their Rulers' Bad Practices"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is wrong to believe that the regime led by al-Bashir and al-Turabi in fraternal Sudan can long continue its erroneous practices against neighboring countries by harboring, encouraging, and protecting terrorists. This regime, which came to power in the wake of a military coup in 1989, is regarded by the brothers in Sudan as a great catastrophe inflicted on them, particularly as the economic conditions and suffering are daily becoming more acute. The news agencies' reports about the long queues of Sudanese brothers outside the bakeries need no comment. Sudan has enough arable lands and water to satisfy the demands of all the brothers. But the ruling regime has completely devoted itself to scheming and to inciting hatred between Sudan and its Arab and African brothers.

Sudan's role during the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait in 1990 exposed this regime's ugly face and the latent hatreds it harbored for the Gulf and Arab countries. All the Sudanese people are aware of the result of this shameful stand by al-Bashir's regime. Sudan's isolation has increased and disputes between Sudan and all the Gulf states, which used to open their doors and houses to all those coming from Sudan looking for jobs or fleeing the repression of Sudanese butchers, have become more acute.

All the Sudanese people have one single question on their minds: What is the reason for al-Bashir's and al-Turabi's enmity toward Egypt and its people? Egypt gives the Sudanese people everything. It has no ambitions toward Sudanese territory, has no present or future political objectives there, and has no economic objectives or designs of any sort. When al-Bashir and al-Turabi decided some time ago to seize the Egyptian centers of learning in Sudan, they angered all the brothers in Sudan. The primary mission of those centers was to educate and enlighten the Sudanese people without getting involved in what was happening in Sudan.

The ordinary Sudanese citizens realize that al-Turabi and al-Bashir aimed to prevent these centers from enlightening the Sudanese or extricating them from the dark tunnels they in which they have been forced to live by the new rulers, who devote themselves to looting the country's resources and plotting against neighboring countries in various guises. But the cloak of Islam can never be one of those.

That evil man who calls himself Shaykh al-Turabi is well known in the Western bars he frequents in the British capital's streets and alleys. If he assumes the mantle of Islam and falsely claims to be a messenger sent by God to save the Arab peoples from their rulers, kings, and presidents who have deviated from the democratic path, then we ask al-Turabi what is happening in the (Cooper) and Sawakin prisons. All the prisoners are faithful patriots who are demanding that Sudan return to its former status of being a real brother to all the Arab countries.

We stress that neither al-Bashir nor al-Turabi dare allow any international mission to visit these prisons because the barbaric torture of the Sudanese brothers there is a crime condemned by every one regardless of religious creed. What is taking place in these prisons violates all divine and human values.

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We know that those who came to power against the people's will cannot remain in power for long, for the doors are now open and the Sudanese people, despite all the repression, are daily more eager to get rid of this gang that is ruling them and stealing their resources and which has brought starvation on this people even though the country's resources and capabilities should enable it to rise above the current situation.

'Ruling Gang' in Khartoum Assailed

NC3006195695 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1745 GMT 30 Jun 95

[Commentary by Ahmad al-Qasir: "Will the Rulers of Khartoum Wake Up From Their Stupor Before it Is Too Late?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Instead of asking God to help his people and give them a bite to eat, the necessary medical services, and the basic minimum for a dignified human life, the small dictator of Sudan who takes orders from the Arabs' big crook—al-Turabi—turned terrorism into a profitable trade by adopting the criminal gangs, financing them, and training them to send them here and there and tamper with the security of the fraternal Arab and African peoples. The leader of the ruling gang in Khartoum did not think this was enough. He attacked Egypt's people and president and conspired against them such that his spiteful spirit lured him into arranging a vile conspiracy to attack President Mubarak in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa. But Egypt's courageous soldiers lay in wait for his devils and taught them a lesson that will never be forgotten by the criminal gang that is crushing the people of Sudan, using every form of oppression, terrorism, and tyranny, stealing their resources, and working for foreign anti-Arab forces in return for a handful of money.

The strange thing is that after the whole world—East and West—condemned this base and criminal act and scorned the ruling gang in Sudan, and after all the sons of Egypt poured out onto the streets in magnificent popular demonstrations, which are continuing, renewing their pledge of devotion to the leader of their march, we say the following: It is strange that the small dictator once more attacks the people of Egypt instead of burying himself alive, along with al-Turabi, out of embarrassment over their misdeed and the exposure of this criminal dictatorial regime before the whole world, particularly after all the fake masks behind which they tried to hide have fallen, thus revealing their ugly face. What did al-Bashir say? He said the people of Egypt are used to terrorism and to killing their leaders and that this crime is an attempt to divert attention from the bad living conditions in Egypt. Has al-Bashir been afflicted with blindness? Has he not seen what the whole world saw on television—the joy of the Egyptian people, irrespective of their different religions and political affiliations, over Mubarak's escape and safe return? And has this dictator not heard what the free Sudanese said when they congratulated President Mubarak and exposed the behavior of this criminal gang, which imposes itself on the good people of Sudan using fire and steel? Since when were you appointed custodian over the people of Egypt, o you midget, together with your master the great charlatan? Has stupidity gripped you so tight that you do not feel the painful tragedy the sons of Sudan are suffering under your bloody rule? Or is it the begrudging hatred and the inferiority complex that will stay with you throughout your life?

Egypt is the country of freedom, democracy, security, and safety. The proof is that many millions of Sudanese live here and enjoy a free, safe, and dignified life, which they do not find in their own country. We defy this hobo ruler who does not know the meaning of Islam, Arabism, good neighborliness, and fraternity, which have always linked the peoples of Egypt and Sudan. We defy him to leave the men of the Sudanese Armed Forces and the free Sudanese people for one week, as President Mubarak said. He will see that the masses will tear him to pieces, settle their accounts with him and the al-Turabi gang, and avenge their honor, their humiliated dignity, and their stolen money at the hands of these devils. The time has come to put this small dictator in his place before his people and the world after he and his gang have lost their senses and started using the methods of criminal gangs and highwaymen, and after the dimensions of the base conspiracy against the people of Egypt have been revealed. Al-Bashir and his master will not be allowed to get away with their heinous crime. No. They will pay a very high price for the crimes they have committed against the people of Egypt, who have been very patient with the childish and indiscriminate behavior of the rulers of Khartoum.

Punishing these criminals has become the popular demand of every free Egyptian citizen who cares about his homeland and loves the leader of his march. Will al-Bashir and his master al-Turabi wake up from their slumber before it is too late and save their powerless people from the repercussions of their renegade rulers' tampering? Forewarned is forearmed.

Military Strike Against Sudan Urged

NC0107060795 Paris AFP in English 0015 GMT 1 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, July 1 (AFP)—A government weekly called Saturday [1 July] for a violent military strike against Sudan, accusing Cairo of being

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too soft in the wake of an assassination bid against President Husni Mubarak blamed on Khartoum.

An article in AKHBAR AL-YAWM by editor Ibrahim Sa'dah addressed to Mubarak said, "Mr. President, the Egyptian people seek vengeance on those who tried to extinguish their light and plunge their country into darkness."

It added: "The Sudanese regime has in recent years committed dozens of crimes against Egypt, its people and its leaders, each of which was enough to justify a declaration of war."

Sa'dah, who recalled that he had already urged military action against Sudan in 1994, said Egypt had been too patient with its southern neighbour.

The government daily AL-AHRAM, meanwhile, said the Sudanese people should take action against the government of General 'Umar al-Bashir, adding, "Of what use is the existence and contiuation of this regime after it has demolished Sudan and plotted against its neighbours."

Mubarak vowed retaliation Thursday against Sudan for its alleged involvement in the attempt on his life in Addis Ababa and the war of words was stepped up on both sides Friday.

Khartoum has denied Egyptian charges of involvement in the attempt to kill Mubarak.

Al-Bashir, al-Turabi 'Hysterical Statements' Seen

NC0407065495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2130 GMT 3 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 3 Jul (MENA)—The newspapers AL-AHRAM and AL-JUMHURIYAH continue to denounce Sudanese Government policy against Egypt and the hollow and hysterical statements released by the ruling duet of al-Turabi and al-Bashir.

In its Tuesday [4 July] issue, AL-AHRAM's editorial says the provocative statements by al-Turabi on the Nile water issue show that the Sudanese regime seeks to provoke Egypt and its officials, and reveal al-Turabi's intentions rather than his real ability to act. It says al-Turabi's statements are merely empty talk and are only aimed at provoking Egypt. They also express the desires of al-Turabi, who actually holds the reins in Sudan. The paper stresses that Egypt does not want to enter into a confrontation with the Sudanese regime, because Egypt's basic policy is to leave this regime to the fraternal Sudanese people. But should anything harm the Egyptian people and their future there will be decisive deterrent measures.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says the Sudanese regime's threats to cut the Nile water will impel us to confront it to defend our rights and lives according to international norms and charters signed in 1959 that regulate the distribution of Nile water. The paper says every option is open to confront any action or measure that may threaten Egypt's security or provoke the Egyptian people's feelings. Egypt, the paper says, takes note of the Sudanese people's stance, which rejects the Sudanese regime's practices. The relations between the two peoples of the Nile valley are a model of amity and close bonds. This relationship is the protective wall on which the spears of the mercenaries and foreign parties will break.

Sudanese Leaders Denounced for 'Terror' Role

NC0307144395 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 3 Jul 95

[Commentary by Mahmud Marzuq: "Sudan's Provocations and the Signs of Collapse"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The ruling Sudanese regime was frustrated when it became certain that the conspiracy hatched by its terrorist henchmen and agents to attack President Husni Mubarak's motorcade in Addis Ababa had failed. This frustration turned into nervous shock because its plot against Egypt and its leader had failed.

They began to beat the drums of war, raise the Egyptian Hala'ib issue, and threaten Egypt's share of the Nile water.

These threats, which Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif revealed in his statements yesterday, confirm that the Sudanese regime has lost its reason and mind, that it has become arrogant and unconscious and utters hollow and rejected threats.

We know for sure that the Sudanese propaganda trumpets' provocative statements are no more than some irresponsible acts which are characteristic of the al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime in Sudan because of the domestic and foreign crises surrounding this regime. This regime is no longer able to handle these crises or save face toward them after the failure of its mean conspiracy to attack President Husni Mubarak's motorcade in Addis Ababa.

Therefore, this regime imagines that the solution lies in creating crises with Egypt to preoccupy the Sudanese public and divert their attention away from the core of repressions to which they are subjected day and night at the hands of their rulers and executioners.

We are also aware of the poor life and difficult living conditions in Sudan and how the al-Bashir-al-Turabi government's foolish policy has created a

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bitter economic and social situation intolerable for the great majority of the Sudanese people. Besides, the Sudanese regime was unable to improve its image with its neighbors and even engaged in disputes with them.

On the one hand, Sudan engaged in a dispute with Eritrea because the ill-omened al-Bashir-backed terrorist elements in Eritrea led to Eritrea announcing that it was severing relations with the Sudanese Government after accusing it of exporting terrorism.

On the other hand, differences with Eritrea are linked to relations between Ethiopia and Sudan. These relations reached a point where the Ethiopian president was compelled in March 1995 to state that his country will not hesitate to declare war on Sudan if Sudan's interference in Ethiopia's internal affairs and the export of terrorism to that country expands.

Also, Sudan's differences with Uganda and Kenya escalated as a result of the problem of southern Sudan. So Egypt does not find itself alone in suffering from the gang ruling Sudan which turned it into a hotbed of terrorism by [word indistinct] and unleashing terrorists with their deadly weapons on black missions of assassination and destruction. Not to mention the mounting anger of the Sudanese people because of continued violations of human rights by the Khartoum executioners.

We also know full well that the ruling Sudanese regime is today living in a terrible crisis after its role was discovered at Arab, Islamic, and African levels. The role played by the al-Bashir-al- Turabi regime in coordination with the ruling regime in Baghdad in supporting and exporting terrorist activities to various Arab countries has been exposed. This role reached the point where many Arab countries were prompted to withdraw their ambassadors from Khartoum in protest against this suspect Sudanese role. Furthermore, some Arab countries seriously considered lodging a complaint with the Security Council backed by documents and papers that expose Sudan's role in supporting and exporting terrorism.

If we consider all these facts and link this irresponsible crime with the attack on the Egyptian leader's motorcade, we will be certain that this treacherous attack reveals these conspiring acts carried out by the al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime in various parts of the Arab and Islamic worlds. These acts primarily harm the Sudanese nation itself which has been laboring for years under the government of those who rule it with iron and fire. Therefore, we are confident that the Sudanese nation will soon have a stand with this corrupt regime which destroyed southern Sudan and is about to waste the north of Sudan. These are logical admitted facts that seem clearly putting the final touches to the drama of the downfall of the Sudanese terrorist gang which is to be shown soon. The entire world will applaud this drama's heroes very warmly.

Al-Turabi's 'Threats' Ridiculed

NC0407160195 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 4 Jul 95

[Commentary by Samir 'Abd-al-Tawwab: "Dust Storm"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dust storms last for a while but vanish as soon as it rains. The dust storm [al-zawba'ah al-turabiyah; apparent pun based on Hasan al-Turabi's surname, which is the adjective form of the noun "turab," which means soil] provoked by the preacher of hate in Khartoum might be one of those sandstorms that stir up some dirt but have no lasting effect, especially after the cleansing rain falls.

Al-Turabi is one of a group of individuals who have appeared periodically on the Arab, Islamic, and African stage. They profess Islam, don its cloak, preach things to which they are not committed, and fail to act on their own proclamations. People everywhere in Sudan know the facts about this preacher, whose henchmen tell him he is a man of great wisdom although his message is evil, obnoxious, and involves terrorizing people—male, female, young, and old. Furthermore al-Turabi showed his cards a long time ago, even before he appointed himself mentor of al-Bashir and the Khartoum regime in Omdurman, not to say in all of Sudan.

Al-Turabi stirs up a dust storm every now and then, particularly with the big sister Egypt, the affectionate mother that nurtures the entire Arab family, never asking for gratitude nor harming any one.

Everything has a beginning. Needing money to make mischief, he has collected funds from both known and unknown sources and from parties that want him to serve their objectives, use him as a puppet, and use their money to point him in any direction they want.

These financing parties have objectives, notably to cause a lasting breach in the natural, historical, and familial relationship between the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples. Since al-Turabi is full of an abominable hate for Egypt and its people, for numerous well-known reasons, he was the best candidate to stir up things against Egypt and the Egyptian people.

Al-Turabi and his underlings began a campaign to train and arm Sudanese and other nationals. To be chosen, the trainees had to have a propensity for terrorism, violence, and a defiance of religious norms and the laws that govern relations between people, groups, and countries.

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Assisted by some rotten circles inside and outside the region, he began exporting those resentful renegades to various countries.

The attempt on our President Mubarak's life in Addis Ababa was an unsuccessful, desperate assault on the entire Egyptian nation. When the conspiracy failed and suspicion fell on the inciters, planners, and financiers in Khartoum; Arab Egypt, the big sister and affectionate mother of the Arabs, felt obliged to issue a warning to the renegades and their underlings that it will punish the inciters, planners, and financiers. Al-Turabi and his underlings felt that the accusation was directed against them. After all, they were behind what had happened. A naive sort of al-Turabi-style storm began: There was an attempt to incite the Sudanese public against Egypt. It then developed into a threat to cut off the Nile water supplies, an issue governed by unquestionable international agreements. The storm grew bolder, threatened the integrity of the border of Egyptian Hala'ib, alleged that this territory is Sudanese, and that al-Turabi was going to liberate it by military means. Merely thinking of attempting to do something like that is a preposterous dream. Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif asserts that Hala'ib will remain Egyptian territory, as it has always been, and that Egypt's southern border will remain, as always, the 22d parallel.

The Egyptian irrigation minister has responded to al-Turabi, asserting that the latter's threats will only cause Sudan to be flooded. He pointed out that al-Turabi knows the details very well.

It remains to be said that in the al-Turabi era there is talk about borders between countries and water supplies; and a threat has been made to abrogate existing agreements. He cannot abrogate the agreements, nor does he dare to cross the border, not even by one inch.

Egypt and Sudan are one entity. They have the same destiny and future. The Egyptian and Sudanese people will not allow a storm, not even an al-Turabi-style dust storm, to disrupt the ties between them.

Psychiatrist Recommended for al-Turabi

NC0507081595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 5 Jul (MENA)—Today's Cairo newspapers say that there are firm principles in Egypt's strategy to defend its national security. Egypt has never considered raising a weapon or planning aggression against a fraternal Arab country.

In its comment, AL-AKHBAR asks whether al-Turabi and his herd really believe that they can fight the Egyptian Army and people and that they can defeat Egypt with all its forces and capabilities which are now much larger than it had during the epic of the historic crossing [of the Suez Canal in October 1973], the crossing which still dazzles the leaders of the biggest and strongest military powers in East and West alike.

The newspaper says al-Turabi and his gang in Khartoum have completely failed to provide a decent means of livelihood for their people. If al-Turabi and his gang believe that the army of terrorists they are training and on which they are spending the money of the poor Sudanese people can invade Egypt, which has taught the world the art of war, all these leaders must be sent to a psychiatrist to ascertain their mental condition.

The newspaper says crazy leaders haunted with delusions and hallucinations not only bring catastrophes on themselves but also on their stricken peoples.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says Egypt under the leadership of President Husni Mubarak has added a new dimension to its Arab relations reflected in a firm principle of not interfering in the internal affairs of any Arab country. By the same measure, Egypt rejects any intervention in its internal affairs by any Arab or foreign country.

The newspaper explains that the southern flank of Egyptian national security is of great importance in Egypt's strategic planning because it is connected with the Nile, Egypt's lifeline since the dawn of history. Therefore, Egypt rejects any infringement of its rights by any party. The newspaper affirms that Egypt has enough power and capability to defend its water rights.

The newspaper says Egypt has every right to secure its borders against the conspiracies of black terrorism hatched in Khartoum. It expresses the hope that no conflict will break out with any fraternal Arab country, especially with the fraternal Sudanese people.

AL-AHRAM says it is common knowledge that Egypt does not interfere in the internal affairs of other countries. Thanks to this principle, it has established a large network of good relations with many countries, including Arab and African countries. It has wrapped these good relations with an atmosphere of friendship and trust, which has helped overcome several problems.

The newspaper notes that upon his return to Cairo after the assassination attempt in Addis Ababa, President Husni Mubarak affirmed that Ethiopia had no connection with the incident. It adds that within the framework of the relations of neighborliness and friendship, Egypt and Ethiopia conducted a joint investigation of the incident. Despite the Egyptians' seething emotions and their desire that Ethiopia find out the truth, Egypt did not issue an official statement blaming the Ethiopian authorities.

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The newspaper affirms that Egypt wants the full facts to come out, without ambiguity or delay. It will not rest until the culprits are punished. Egypt does not seek a confrontation or tension with its friends.

The newspaper calls on the Ethiopians to calm down and not to be affected under any circumstances by the campaigns launched by the real culprits.

Opposition Party Paper Denounces Regime

NC0207074595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 2 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 2 Jul (MENA)—AL-WAFD newspaper has stated that the al-Turabi-al-Bashir regime carries the elements for its destruction within itself. Therefore, the regime is trying to provoke Egyptian nationalistic sentiment by seizing Egyptian property in Sudan and attempting to assassinate Egypt's leader and symbol.

In its editorial today, the paper, mouthpiece of the opposition New al-Wafd Party, says the Sudanese are persecuted, helpless, and are suffering severely from its rulers' military oppression. It adds that these rulers impoverished the nation and wasted its resources and youths in battles. Further, the first victims of the battles were the Sudanese people.

The paper denounces Khartoum's rash acts of threatening war and causing conflict with Egypt, which has long been patient. AL-WAFD praises President Mubarak's wisdom and patience for announcing that he will not fight with Sudan.

Concluding its editorial, AL-WAFD says there are many ways to bring down the regime in Khartoum but the brothers in Sudan are the ones most able to unseat this detestable regime.

Mubarak Urged To Get Rid of 'Hypocrites'

NC0507084795 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 1 Jul 95 p 1

[Column by Ahmad Rajab]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Addis Ababa's bullets did not only target Egypt's symbol, but also Egypt itself.

The plan is to strike Egypt, its stability, and its security. The plan is to strike the people to keep them backward, ignorant, and lost.

The enemies do not know that Egyptians immediately unite in times of danger. They become true Egyptians regardless of their tendencies. This is the reason all the people rallied around Husni Mubarak and declared the unity of their ranks. The people and the leader united and became one and the same thing.

It is high time that those who occupy some sensitive positions and are trying to isolate the president from the people by issuing chaotic decisions and cooking up obnoxious laws leave their posts.

It is the people—after God—who protect the ruler, not the hypocrites.

Magazine Cited on Plan To Assassinate Mubarak

NC0507155195 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Paris-based magazine AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI has revealed new secrets and information regarding the failed attack against President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa. The magazine confirms the involvement of the Hasan al-Turabi-led Sudanese National Front in providing the tools, weapons, and funds for the assassination attempt, under an agreement concluded between al- Turabi and the terrorist elements in the last week of May, when al- Turabi paid a secret visit to Switzerland.

The magazine adds that al-Turabi travelled aboard a Dutch airlines flight, allegedly for treatment. He travelled to Paris first before going on to Geneva, where he met the terrorists and promised to provide them with the necessary backing to assassinate President Mubarak in Addis Ababa while attending the African summit.

AL-WATAN Al-'ARABI adds that the team chosen to carry out the assassination was trained for the operation at a farm 65 km north of Khartoum. The nine-member team flew to Addis Ababa in mid-June and stayed at a villa in the Ethiopian capital. The magazine adds that the terrorists received two suitcases containing ammunition and explosives, including the RPG's found by the Ethiopian police at the scene of the operation, from a Sudanese individual named Shaykh Darwish. Darwish is an al-Turabi front member who operates between the Sudanese and Ethiopian capitals.

Citing Sudanese opposition sources, AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI refers to the role of a Sudanese engineer, believed to be the overall coordinator of extremist terrorist organizations. Hasan al-Turabi's role in this operation was not confined to arranging the training at the Sudanese farm but went as far as smuggling the weapons to Ethiopia and supplying the terrorists with detailed information on the route of President Mubarak's motorcade from the airport to the African summit. He also made arrangements for renting the villa and securing an alternative residence to shelter the perpetrators after carrying out the operation. They were later scheduled to be transferred to Khartoum.

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The magazine adds that 30 elements left Sudan for Ethiopia after smuggling the necessary weapons and hiring the cars that were to be used in the attempt. The Paris-based magazine notes that the first surprise that helped to abort the assassination attempt on President Mubarak was the president leaving for the summit center at 0855. The perpetrators had planned to carry out their operation at 0830. The perpetrators were informed by the airport only at 0855. [all times as heard]

The magazine explains that, since it is under 1 km from the airport to the summit center, the terrorist group could only prepare its automatic weapons and the blue truck that was supposed to block President Mubarak's motorcade. The group could not take the RPG's out of the suitcases and fire them.

The crucial surprise was the behavior of the president's driver, on President Mubarak's instructions. The driver impeded the scenario, foiling the plan by returning to the airport. The terrorists' calculations and their plan were based on lessons given at bodyguard training centers. The driver, in particular circumstances, would storm the roadblocks and proceed at full speed regardless of the cost.

The sources added that the car's return to the airport reversed all the calculations and saved President Mubarak, who would have faced a real catastrophe had he arrived at the place where the suicide car was waiting for him 100 meters from the ambush.

Sidqi: Sudan Cannot Touch Egypt's Share of Nile Water

NC0507151195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1435 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 5 Jul (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi has stated that Sudan cannot touch Egypt's share of the Nile water. The Nile is an international river the water of which is utilized according to international agreements and laws, he added. Dr. Sidqi said the river belongs to nobody.

In press statements today the prime minister said Sudan's share of the Nile's water is 18 billion cubic meters. He noted that Sudan cannot absorb all of that share and that 3 to 4 billion cubic meters always remain unused. Any attempt by Sudan to confiscate part of Egypt's share will drown its land in floods. Dr. Sidqi said Egypt had helped Sudan to construct projects to use its surplus.

Minister on Nile Issue

NC0507150695 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-Hadi Radi, minister of public works and water resources, has said that Egypt helped Sudan build water resources projects there. He added that Egypt relinquished the Jabal al-Awliya' reservoir—built for both the Egyptian and Sudanese nations—free to Sudan in 1977.

He emphasized that no one can keep the Nile's water from Egypt, technically or legally. He noted that anyone who contemplates this will meet the severest punishment.

Minister Radi made these remarks when he inaugurated the al-Ma'murah irrigation plant in Alexandria. The plant, which aims to improve irrigation in the al-Ma'murah and al-Muntazah areas for 12,000 feddans of land, cost about 7 million pounds.

Minister Radi said President Mubarak's safety is considered the safety of Egypt and the Arab and Islamic region. He added that al-Turabi must come to Egypt to study law again and see the security and stability enjoyed by Egypt.

Former Sudanese Officer on Regime, Opposition Radio

NC0407193195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1627 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 4 Jul (MENA)—A senior Sudanese officer who recently fled the country has spoken of major acts of ugly torture in Sudan, particularly inside places called ghost houses established inside Sudanese cities to torture the regime's opponents. [passage omitted]

In exclusive remarks to MENA, Colonel Kamal Isma'il narrated his tragic experiences inside the ghost houses, which he entered two months after his discharge from the army when he was still under the army's legal jurisdiction, a period that stretches for three months after one leaves the army.

He said: I rose at dawn to find a large contingent of army vehicles and troops surrounding my house. They forced me to go with them in my underwear and did not allow me to carry any of my personal effects. My young children were crying.

The Sudanese officer said that he was taken blindfolded to a ghost house near Khartoum's Citibank branch on Saturday, 22 March, 1991, and was forced to lie on the ground.

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He added: I was prevented from using the toilet for several days. When the first day of the month of Ramadan came and I was fasting, one of the guards threw to me a dried up loaf of bread and some water in an old marmalade can. This was the beginning of the psychological torture. [passage omitted]

He went on: On the following day I was ordered to stand inside a barrel from 5 p.m. until 9 a.m. the next morning, a total of 16 hours. Because it was cold I felt as if I had turned into an ice statue. When they finally took me out of the barrel, I moved like a robot.

He added: All the time they used to shout at me and at other detained officers, calling us infidels, communists, traitors, and agents. They used to tell us that we were waiting for Bush to come and rescue us.

Col. Isma'il reported that he was actually part of a 45-member organization inside the army that sought to overthrow the regime of the National Islamic Front because they realized from the beginning what kind of people the officers loyal to Hasan al-Turabi were and that they were tools in his hands and sought to establish a terrorist regime and spread al-Turabi's ideas and slogans throughout the region. [passage omitted]

The fugitive officer Kamal Isma'il said that after he was released from jail, his freedom of movement was restricted and he was placed under strict surveillance. He was banned from applying for a passport. After several months he could no longer tolerate the situation and decided to flee abroad in order to continue his patriotic struggle.

He reported in this connection: I began making clandestine contacts with some people inside the country and abroad. I wish to identify no one, because some of them have senior posts in Sudan. I succeeded in fleeing to an Arab country, where I made contact with several opposition leaders.

Col. Isma'il declined to reveal the date of his arrival in Egypt.

Concerning his future plans, he said that after contacting numerous Sudanese opposition figures, he and several others established the Sudanese Center for Information and Strategic Studies to monitor Sudanese affairs in various spheres. He noted that one of the first tasks of the center was the issuing of an irregular publication called "AL NAFIDHATH" [THE WINDOW], which exposes the regime's actions. [passage omitted]

The Sudanese officer remarked: What we need most is to have a radio with which to broadcast to the Sudanese people. We have made some progress in this connection, and hope to begin broadcasting soon.

Two 'Leading Terrorists' Killed in Clash

NC2906192395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1855 GMT 29 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 29 Jun (MENA)—The State Security Investigation [SSI] service today dealt a new, successful blow against fugitive terrorists trying to evade the country's security and disrupt stability. SSI antiterrorism squads eliminated two dangerous leading terrorists.

An Interior Ministry official security source said antiterrorism groups raided terrorist hideouts in Awlad 'Azzaz village, Markaz Suhaj, at dawn today. The antiterrorist groups were surprised by gunfire directed at them, forcing them to return fire and silence the gunfire's source.

The source said that leading terrorist Rif'at Ahmad al-Badawi and terrorist Abu-al-Hasan Muhammad Abu-al-Hasan were killed in the clash. A loaded automatic rifle and a locally made pistol were found, along with a large quantity of ammunition, large sums of cash, several documents, and leaflets about the organization, and a cassette recorder. [passage omitted]

Minister on Security's Containment of 'Terrorism'

NC0507170095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 5 Jul (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has asserted that the Egyptian security service has succeeded to a large extent in containing terrorism, adding that efforts are under way to wipe it out completely and avert its dangers.

Speaking at a ceremony at the Police Academy at the end of the training and specialized courses at the College of Training and Development, al-Alfi pointed out that the people's assistance and cooperation had had a positive impact and opened up channels to uncover terrorists that used to be closed.

Al-Alfi noted that after the noose had been tightened around these evil elements in Egypt, they searched for new avenues to commit their abominable crimes, failing to realized that by so doing they were providing the whole world with conclusive evidence that their avenues in Egypt had been completely blocked.

The interior minister emphasized that the security agencies had purged large areas that the terrorist groups used to occupy within the state's social structure. The important remaining role falls on the shoulders of the other competent authorities to seal off any gaps so that the terrorist elements will not be able to infiltrate once again, he added. [passage omitted]

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'Militants' Kill 6 Policemen in Attack on Van

NC0607091095 Paris AFP in English 0903 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Asyut, Egypt, July 6 (AFP)—Islamic militants killed six policemen in an attack on their van in the Asyut region of southern Egypt on Thursday [6 July], police said.

Musa, PA's 'Abd-Rabbuh Comment on Peace Developments

NC0607072595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2125 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 5 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa tonight met Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, the Palestinian Authority's [PA] information minister, who is currently visiting Egypt.

They discussed developments in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on implementing the second phase of the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles.

Afterward Musa stressed that Egypt will continue its efforts to boost the peace process. He added that Cairo will contact the Palestinian and Israeli sides to ensure the Declaration is implemented in a way that finds it accepted and supported by the Palestinian public.

'Abd-Rabbuh said he and Minister Musa viewed developments on the Palestinian-Israeli track, particularly the redeployment of Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank. He added that he briefed the Egyptian foreign minister on the obstacles to an agreement on the redeployment of Israeli forces by the new date of 25 July. He stressed that no solution will be reached by this new date if the two parties and other concerned parties do not try hard. He said the disputed issues are fundamental and concern the PA's responsibilities, its ability to carry out its role in all the Palestinian areas in the West Bank, and ensuring the Israeli army's withdrawal from the populated areas so that legislative elections might be held.

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh added that there will be no elections if the Israeli army does not withdraw from the populated areas, because things would then be impossible. He said that partitioning and splitting up the Palestinian areas into isolated islands will damage the national Palestinian interests. He stressed the need to respect the Declaration of Principles and to implement it in full.

He stressed that Egypt could continue its efforts in these conditions, due to its major role and influence, because the whole peace process will be blown off course if the elections are not held this year.

Mufti: Shari'ah Applied in Many Aspects of Daily Life

NC0607071095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2203 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Alexandria, 5 Jul (MENA)—Dr. Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi, the mufti of the Republic, has affirmed that Islamic shari'ah is applied in many aspects of daily life in Egypt and that the state and its institutions are trying very hard to apply shari'ah.

Dr. Tantawi noted in a meeting this evening with the students of the first group of the Alexandria University Students' Club camp at the Students' Union headquarters in the coastal region that there are committees working on refining the earlier laws and removing all points that contradict the shari'ah from these laws.

He clarified that a law was issued in 1980 stipulating that it is not possible to issue a law violating the Islamic shari'ah.

Dr. Sayyid Tantawi said that we support President Husni Mubarak when he says that he does not want a war between Egypt and Sudan. He expressed his hopes that such a war not take place.

He added: We thank God for protecting our nation by saving President Mubarak from the spite of an evil and malicious group of people. He said that the sensible ones among us should spread security, peace of mind, and safety so that the nation can rise and its status can be elevated.

Then, answering a question on dealings with banks, the mufti of the Republic said that such dealings are based on the individual's desire to make this bank its representative and to invest his funds in it. The lawful and prohibited in Islam play no role in setting, or not setting, the profit margin.

The banks that set profit margins are the ones closer to Islam, provided that this profit is removed from exploitation, cheating, and usury.

Article Describes Autumn Election Climate

95LD0080A London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 7 May 95 pp 26-30

[Article by Hanan Hajaj: "Egypt: the Autumn Elections: Boycott of Elections Intimated by Some Parties as Future Alliances Are Contemplated by Others; Opposition's Terms Are: President Is To Step Aside, a Neutral Government Is To Be Formed, and Emergency Law Is To Be Revoked"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Elections at the Journalists' Association and the announcement of those election results weeks ago were tantamount to a heat wave that

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descended on Cairo during a relatively cool spring. These election results raised some questions and generated considerable worry about the coming fall. Between the spring elections at the Journalists' Association and the fall elections of the People's Assembly, Egypt will be experiencing one of the longest electoral seasons in its political life. [During that period] attorneys and engineers will be selecting their associations' boards of directors and officers, and new faces will be occupying half the seats of Egypt's Shura [Advisory] Council. Thus, the 1995 election year will become, coincidentally or otherwise, the year for change, or perhaps the year of inertia.

The electorate in Egypt is made up of 18 million voters. They represent the power that 14 political parties are vying for.

That session of the assembly that will mark the onset of the country's 129th parliamentary season is the same one that will be in session when Egypt bids the 20th century farewell. Anyone holding a seat in that assembly will at least be assured of a place on the map of political life by the turn of the century. Because of this time framework, special importance is being attached to the parliamentary elections that will follow those elections, which are to be held in professional associations. Many in the ruling party and in the opposition parties as well (legal ones as well as groups whose legitimacy has not yet been recognized) are attaching special importance to these elections.

The Conference for a National Dialogue, which was held in 1994, was seen by some as an attempt by the Egyptian Government and the opposition parties to find a framework for working together politically. Ever since then, however, the point of contention has been the problem of the elections. Those who were engaged in the dialogue were split by the boycott, and some political parties, led by the Wafd, the strongest opposition group in Egypt, withdrew [from the fray]. But the elections issue continued to receive black marks as Egypt's opposition parties made direct allegations against the entire process, up to the vote-counting stage. The two predecessors of the present assembly had been dissolved: one two years after it was formed, and the second, three years after it was formed. The two bodies had been dissolved because their makeup violated articles of the constitution. The constitutional challenge to the two assemblies was filed by assembly member Kamal Khalid, and the Supreme Constitutional Court ruled in each case that the assembly had to be dissolved before the expiration of its term.

The lack of judicial oversight over secondary electoral districts in 1990 remains a threat to the present assembly. Although its term is about to expire, the unconstitutionality of this assembly has been neither the only nor the most important charge to be made against it ever since it was constituted in 1990. Not only was this long-winded assembly accused by one of its own members, as Kamal Khalid did, but more than half its members declared war on it by accusing 268 assembly members of forgery and challenging their membership in the assembly. While the Court of Cassation rejected 138 such challenges, it accepted 45 of them, after documents confirming [the alleged] forgery were filed. The court then turned over those cases to the People's Assembly for appropriate action. Meanwhile, 85 challenges to the present assembly, whose term may expire before the court's decision is reached, are still being considered. Furthermore, the court ruled in favor of a number of candidates who were awarded financial compensation. The most recent such financial compensation was awarded to Dr. Hilmi al-Hadidi, former minister of health. Dr. al-Hadidi was awarded the sum of 100,000 pounds after it was proven that he dropped out of the race as a result of a forgery incident that was confirmed. His award was paid by the People's Assembly and the Ministry of the Interior.

System of Individual Candidates Settled the Matter

Will people be voting in the coming elections for lists of candidates or for individual candidates? These are the two systems that Egypt's political system had adopted. Elections that were held in recent years had swung back and forth between the two systems.

Law Number 114 of 1983, which was enacted before the 1984 elections, approved an electoral system in which voters would vote for a party's list of candidates. This is what actually happened in 1983: each party had its own list of candidates. At that time, members of the Islamic Tendency were included in the Wafd Party's list of candidates. They gained seats in parliament, and for the first time in years they had a voice. That list of candidates was the same one that bested the Labor Party's coalition with the Muslim Brothers when that party failed to break the 9-percent barrier that was required to gain entry into parliament. That list succeeded in making a division, and, at the time, the ruling party retained its majority, receiving 390 votes out of a total 448.

In February of this year, the chronic issue was settled when a final announcement was made approving an electoral system that would enable voters to vote for individual candidates in the coming elections. That announcement was seen by some people as a step that placed the ball in the opposition's court. Engineer Ibrahim Shukri, president of the Labor Party, did not

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conceal his reservations regarding the new way that was to be used in conducting the elections. He observed: "Equal opportunities must be given to candidates' lists and to [individual] candidates so that those who declare their candidacy in districts for individual candidates would have an equal chance as those who are nominated by any of the parties." When asked to comment on statements about the opportunity for control that party leaders have over candidates whose names appear on party lists, Mr. Shukri replied, "Such a statement might apply to the ruling National Party, but it cannot apply to the opposition parties because the people we attract represent the best elements. We place their names on the lists to ensure the best results."

Nothing further was said on the matter besides Ibrahim Shukri's reservations and the welcoming remarks that were made by the Wafd Party, by the people, and by the remaining parties. Those parties soon started making other demands, the most important of which had to do with the integrity of the elections. They demanded judicial oversight for the elections process and suspension of the emergency law, at least during the elections period. The Wafd Party demanded that President Husni Mubarak give up the leadership of the National Party to guarantee that his name will not be used in the party's publicity. The ruling party has usually responded to such demands by saying that the emergency law restricts neither political activity in Egypt nor actions by opposition parties. It does guarantee, however, that the security of Egyptians will be protected. The ruling party affirms that cases involving terrorism and drug dealers are the only instances in which the emergency law is invoked. The ruling party also affirms that ever since this law went into effect in 1981 no excesses were committed in invoking it.

Despite assertions from most of its leaders that they will be running for office in the elections, the Wafd Party continues to declare that it has not yet decided what its final position on participating in the elections will be. Nevertheless, the Grouping Party, the Labor Party, the Liberal Party, and the Muslim Brothers have declared their intentions to take part in the elections. At the same time opposition parties did announce as an aside that they would not become involved in elections for the Shura [Advisory] Council. These opposition parties find that the Shura Council, ever since it was established in 1980, has been a ceremonial body with neither legislative nor oversight powers.

As far as entering into alliances with other parties is concerned, the Wafd Party, as was announced by Yasin Siraj-al-Din, will participate in the elections as a single party: it will neither form coalitions with other parties nor coordinate positions with any of them. As Mr. Siraj-al-Din says, "The party has the political clout to stand on its own." Mr. Siraj-al-Din expects the Wafd Party to gain 25 percent of the seats in the coming assembly if the elections that will be held are free.

The Muslim Brothers Are Coming

In a related matter, the announcement made by the Muslim Brothers Group that they would be participating in the elections reverberated in the field, particularly in the wake of those clashes that had occurred between the Muslim Brothers and the government. The situation became critical after amendments were made to the law regulating professional and trade associations, which had been controlled by Islamists for a long time. The situation became critical also after an announcement was made recently indicating that there was an organization whose aim was to create unrest. Members of that organization who are being accused of complicity in that effort are some of the Muslim Brothers' prominent members, foremost among whom is Dr. 'Isam al-'Iryan. Since the government did declare more than once that the Muslim Brothers Group is not a legitimate group, the group stands accused by the government and by the opposition parties as well of relying on foreign financing.

Dr. Muhammad al-Sayid Sa'id says, "We can assert that the next parliament will include Islamists but that those Islamists will represent, at most, no more than 15 percent of the total. What is being said about their strength is not true because our judgments, unfortunately, tend to be based on impressions."

Although a final portrait of this year's elections in Egypt remains incomplete, that portrait suggests that this year's elections might turn out to be very close to the 1987 elections. Although some political parties did threaten a possible boycott of the elections process, those parties will not be able to stand by at a distance and watch one political party and a minority opposition prevail over the political field. Such parties will have to choose one of two options: they can either step aside, or they can join the fray. Although no guarantees will be made, the heat of the competition in the fall will light a fire under the seats of those who are sitting outside the field where the game is being played. The heat of competition will draw those parties into the fray even though voters' rolls containing names of individuals who have been deceased and those who are employed abroad would continue to surface. That heat may even burn the last cards these parties have been holding, now that it has become clear that leaving matters as they are would mean that more opportunities for gaining seats in the assembly would be available to the Muslim

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Brothers, who are investing everything they have in the coming elections after losing much of the hold they had on professional associations and trade unions.

Between the Ruling Party and the Opposition

> Kamal al-Shadhli: "We are the majority party. In making its demands, the aim of the opposition is to cover up its failure."

%Justice Ma'mun al-Hudaybi: "We have no commitments to the party, and we will run as individual candidates."

%Dr. Rif'at al-Sa'id: "Our parties, including the ruling party, do not have grassroots support."

%Dr. Hilmi Murad: "We want a neutral government to oversee the elections."

%Dr. Nu'man Jum'ah: "We want the manner of our participation in the elections to be different from that of the previous time."

Serious accusations are made when the old issues that are on the elections agenda in Egypt resurface every time new elections are held. Although the calm on the surface appears to be holding, the temperature indicator will not stay at the boiling point for a long time once the countdown to the elections of the next People's Assembly starts. Issues that can set off the battle are integrity of the elections, neutrality guarantees, the emergency law, and the occasional suggestion that certain parties will boycott the elections, [even though] an elections boycott is not likely to happen now.

AL-MAJALLAH met with a number of opposition figures, and it also met with the assistant secretary general of the National Party. The magazine asked two questions. It asked about participation in the elections, and it asked whether or not the parties have decided on their final position regarding the elections.

Kamal al-Shadhli, assistant secretary general of the ruling National Party and minister of state for parliamentary affairs replied, "The National Party, ever since it was established, has participated in all the elections that were held for the People's Assembly and for the Shura [Advisory] Council. The National Party won an undisputed majority in each election. Our party is the one around which the majority of Egyptians rally. We will be running for office in the Shura Council's midterm elections. We also have our own cadres and are able to come up with a complete list of candidates, unlike some opposition parties whose lists fell short of the required number. That is why these parties lost when we were voting for the political parties' lists of candidates."

Dr. Nu'man Jum'ah, vice president of the New Wafd Party, replied, "The party's final decision regarding its participation in the coming elections campaign has not been made to date. Every period of time has its own circumstances. Ultimately, however, the decision will be up to the party's organizations. To date, indicators within the party show that the party is likely to become a participant in the elections because it wishes to participate in public life in a manner that is different from the previous method of participation." Jum'ah commented on the 1990 elections boycott by saying: "The Supreme Board of the Wafd, acting with a one-vote majority, refused to take part in the 1990 elections. It is very normal for political parties to have different positions, particularly since there were reasons for the boycott. Perhaps noncompliance with the guarantees that the Wafd Party had asked for in the elections was the most important reason for the boycott."

According to Dr. Hilmi Murad, vice president of the opposition Labor Party—"Our final decision has not yet been made. That decision will depend on the appropriate climate and circumstances. We hope that the regime will use normal logic and accept some of what the opposition has set forth to guarantee the integrity of the elections." Dr. Murad outlined the opposition's most important terms for ensuring the integrity of the elections. "These include total judicial oversight over the elections process. That oversight is to start with the process of printing the ballots, and it is to continue until election results are announced. The courts must oversee the elections in secondary electoral districts, not only in the main ones as is the case now. When a representative casts his ballot, he has to place his signature or his thumbprint on the register of voters to ensure that he appeared in person to cast his ballot. Thus, no ballots would be cast bearing the names of people who are deceased or people who live outside the country. A neutral or coalition government made up of all the existing parties is to be formed, and that government would remain in charge until the elections are over."

The Muslim Brothers Group had announced at an early date that it intended to take part in the elections. Justice Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, the group's official spokesman, observed, "As a group we are different from the remaining parties. Muslim Brothers do not have a partisan obligation to the group, nor do they have political settlements to consider. Ballots are cast for individuals in the elections process, and there is nothing in the constitution or in the laws to keep any individual from declaring his candidacy. Individuals who run for office rely on their ability to communicate with the public, and therein lies our strength."

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"The 1990 experience was useful to us, giving us a new opposition model: one that uses raucous, strident terms to say nay but silently raises its hand to say yea. Our opposition was expressed in our words and in our deeds. We did not contradict ourselves." That is how Dr. Rif'at al-Sa'id, vice president of the Unionist Grouping Party, presented the party's point of view. The Grouping Party that was the only party to take part in the 1990 elections was the party that had broken the boycott rule. Thus, it held on to five seats in the assembly. While declaring the party's intention to participate in the fall elections, Dr. al-Sa'id rejects the notion of repeating the boycott, which, he says, would have to be the culmination of a broad action leading ultimately to a boycott of the elections by both the people and political parties. "Otherwise, people, whose attitude has been so passive, will not be receptive to the parties' position to boycott the elections. And that is why the specific demands that we made a long time ago have gone unanswered. In Egypt the will to be engaged in a struggle that would culminate in free and honest elections does not exist in a single popular party. This is not a matter of party leaders making decisions to boycott elections. If that were the case, what is happening now would happen. Political parties have to go back to the elections. Because their demands have not been met, their lack of credibility has been established."

Conditions for Integrity

The opposition's conditions and its demands that the integrity of the elections be guaranteed are the same conditions and demands that the opposition has been making for years. Does this mean that the state is refusing to comply with these conditions, or does it mean that these conditions and demands are not justified?

Kamal al-Shadhli replies, "Our party is the party with the greatest concern for the integrity of the elections. In fact, we are calling for campaign financing and campaign goals to be 100-percent Egyptian. Allegations that elections lack integrity have been made by some opposition parties who bring it up and use it as a crutch when they face their membership after failing to gain seats in these elections. It is the responsibility of opposition parties to broaden their bases and develop their activities, not to make insinuations regarding the integrity of the elections. What is being said about judicial oversight is a constitutional principle, and it is being enforced. Judicial oversight, however, does not mean that a judge would be appointed for each electoral district. It rather means that a number of judges would be appointed to oversee the elections process. They would oversee the electoral process by having those who preside over general electoral committees report to them. Dr. Nu'man Jum'ah commented on the allegation that opposition parties lack the public support that would enable them to compete with the ruling party, which is asserting that it is supported by the grassroots majority. He said, "The problem, as the ruling party suggests, does not lie with the grassroots members of political parties. We have our public and our newspapers. The problem, however, lies with the citizens who are desperate and frustrated because they feel that their votes will have no effect on election results. That is why they do not participate in public activity. That is why only a limited number of people go to polling stations, and that makes it easy for the government to falsify election results. The guarantees we have been calling for as opposition parties would give citizens an incentive to participate."

Dr. Rif'at al-Sa'id adds, "All of us, including the ruling party, lack popular appeal. The Egyptian public is apolitical, and Egyptians did not employ collective action. They look for individual solutions to their problems. They work abroad, become engaged in illegal activities, or adopt ideas that involve rejecting society and its laws. Our political experience, starting with the revolution, the men who carried it out, and aspects of that single organization, has been bitter and discouraging. After that our experience shifted to political party leaders whose intellectual differences cost them their credibility. That credibility has been lost completely. What we need is new political thinking, particularly since our 1984 and 1987 experiences and the practices employed then by the opposition, namely the shrill and strident opposition slogans, caused people to feel completely frustrated."

Dr. Hilmi Murad alluded to the Grouping Party's participation in the recent elections after breaking the boycott and affirmed that the popular appeal of the Grouping Party fell even as that of the Labor Party rose. He cited the high circulation of the newspaper, AL-SHA'B, as evidence of that. Dr. Hilmi Murad explains the declining popular appeal of political parties by saying, "Not all those who are registered as members of the National Party are members of the party and supporters of the government. But people who are registered with us as members of the Labor party represent only a small percentage of the real members of the party. If we were to register the names of all our members, the Office of State Security Investigations would be receiving a list of names of people who will be punished for having their names on that list. We are a legitimate party, but the government subscribes to a principle from which it does not waver. [It believes] that anyone who opposes it is an enemy who must be pursued. Although opposition leaders are still withholding consent to participate in the coming elections pending the realization of some

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of the guarantees they have been calling for, it has become clear that they will take part in the elections even if their demands are not met."

Dr. Hilmi Murad says, "Regardless of the outcome, it will be enough for us to join forces with the people. It will be enough for us to realize that more facts will be revealed as a result of the intrusions that will occur." Regarding the announcement that was made about the coalition between the three branches of the Islamic Tendency (the Liberal Party, the Labor Party, and the Muslim Brothers) and the Grouping and Nasirist parties, Dr. Murad said, "This is not an alliance, but an effort to coordinate approaches. As parties, we have similar approaches. We must not fight each other; we must instead form a bloc [to achieve] the common goal of rotating power. As people whose approach tends to be characterized by Islamic thought, we have to coordinate with each other for the common good, even though we may have differences on secondary matters of our thinking."

Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, one of the members of the coordination trio, explains this by saying, "These are ordinary matters that occur between parties that have common approaches. What will happen is that we will coordinate the distribution of electoral districts so that our candidates would not be competing with each other for the same electoral district. We can thus guarantee that we would win the largest number of seats."

On the other hand, Dr. Rif'at al-Sa'id did not conceal what he called a plan to form an alliance with the Nasirists, and he justified the formation of such a plan by saying, "There is an alliance countering ours. The hostility we feel for those tendencies that are part of that alliance is no secret, just as our desire to form a bloc opposite a party that is holding the reins of power with an artificial majority is no secret either. Nevertheless, we have not yet decided what the specific form of that alliance will be."

Kamal al-Shadhli, assistant secretary of the ruling party, affirms that the political makeup of the coming parliament will not be much different. This means that the National Party will receive its usual majority.

Dr. Nu'man Jum'ah affirms that, if the elections are honest, the political clout of the Wafd Party will enable it to put together a strong opposition bloc.

Dr. Rif'at al-Sa'id expects [his party to gain] between 20 and 30 seats. But Dr. Hilmi Murad says, "If the elections turn out to be honest, and it is our dream that they will be, we will receive a majority of the votes. Ask the man in the street." Justice Ma'mun al-Hudaybi comments, "There is nothing reassuring about the coming elections. Assuming that they will be honest is debatable. After all, there are no real guarantees. The state owns the media and has total control over the tools and means of government. We will do what we can, but we do not expect much."

Parliament and the Members

The first parliamentary elections in Egypt were held in 1866 when the first parliament was convened. That body was known as the Representatives' Advisory Council. Parliamentary systems followed. These are: The Egyptian Council of Representatives (1881-82); the General Assembly (1883-1913); the Legislative Assembly (1913-23); the Council of Elders and the Council of Representatives (1924-52); the National Assembly (1957-71); and finally, the People's Assembly.

The first parliament in 1866 had the smallest number of representatives. The largest number of representatives served in the previous People's Assembly in 1987. That number was 458. The number of representatives in the present People's Assembly is 452. There are two vacant seats as a result of one death and one resignation. The National Party has 416 members; the Unionist Progressive Grouping Party has five; and the Nasirists and Independents have 31 members.

Egypt's Political Parties

Egypt now has 14 recognized political parties. The oldest parties are the Unionist, Progressive, National Grouping Party, and the Liberal party. Both were established in 1976. The youngest party is the Party of Solidarity that was established a few months ago. There are seven parties whose establishment is still being opposed by the Committee of Partisan Affairs in the Shura [Advisory] Council. The parties that exist now are:

- The National Democratic Party, headed by Muhammad Husni Mubarak, was established in 1977.

%The New Wafd Party, headed by Fu'ad Siraj-al-Din, was established in 1978.

%The Unionist, Progressive National Grouping, headed by Khalid Muhyi-al-Din, was established in 1976. It is the only party that participated in the 1990 elections.

%The Liberal Party, headed by Mustafa Kamil Murad, was established in 1976.

%The Socialist Labor Party is headed by Engineer Ibrahim Shukri.

%The Ummah Party is headed by Ahmad al-Sabahi.

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%The Nasirist Party is headed by Diya'-al-Din Dawud.

%The Democratic People's Party is headed by Anwar 'Afifi.

%The Young Egypt Party.

%The Democratic Unionist Party.

%The Party of Justice.

%The Green Party.

%The Party of Solidarity

%Finally, there is one group that the Egyptian Government still refuses to recognize. This is the Muslim Brothers group. The government declares this group illegal even though its members were able to enter parliament in 1984 under the auspices of the Wafd Party. In 1987 they entered parliament as members of the well-known trilateral coalition between the Muslim Brothers, the Labor Party, and the Liberal Party.

Professional Associations and Trade Unions: A Law That Created a Crisis and Caused Election-Delaying Accusations To Be Made

Amending Articles Two and Six of Law Number 100, which regulates the activities of trade unions and professional associations, caused unrest in the major professional associations, those for attorneys, physicians, and engineers. Amending these two articles also created an electoral crisis that delayed the elections process in the Engineers' Association and the Bar Association. Many people consider these elections to be the main trial run for the elections of the next People's Assembly.

The amendment stipulated that for an election in a professional association or trade union to be valid, half the members of that association or trade union who have the right to vote must take part in electing that association's president and board. This was interpreted as an attempt by the government to keep the Muslim Brothers from having a free hand in professional associations, particularly since they control the Engineers' Association, the Bar Association, the Physicians' Association, and the Teachers' Association. These associations have 220,000 members, 150,000 members, 130,000 members, and 200,000, respectively.

Article Six of the law that approved total judicial oversight over all stages of the elections process destroyed the Muslim Brothers' last hope. Although these amendments were passed last February, elections at the Bar Association and the Engineers' Association have not been held to date even though a date for them was set more than once. According to some expectations, it has become quite clear that these elections may not be held this year. The courts have been drawn into the matter, and the property of some people has been sequestered even as charges were traded between association members and members of their boards of directors. That was the case in the Bar Association where more than 21 reports were filed against members of that association's board, most of whom are Muslim Brothers. These people were accused of squandering the association's funds and spending those funds only on attorneys who are also Muslim Brothers. They were accused of spending the money to pay for their major and minor pilgrimage trips and to pay salaries for those who are being held by the authorities. The same situation is somewhat being repeated in the Engineers' Association after that association's board of directors, which is controlled by the Muslim Brothers, voted no confidence in the president of the association. That was how the battle was fought before the elections, which were to be held late last March, were held. Fourteen members of the association petitioned the court to place the association under sequestration. This was actually done after the court established that financial violations had been committed. The situation in both associations indicates that elections will be postponed. Law Number 100 and its amendments is the only reason why elections are being postponed in another number of associations and trade unions, chief among which is the Physicians' Association, the Dentists' Association, the Association of Veterinarians, and a number of labor unions. Elections in these associations will be postponed particularly now that elections in these associations are to be run by judicial committees pursuant to the aforementioned law. These committees, which have not yet completed their review of lists, do not have an adequate number of court personnel. Accordingly, many people expect that no other elections will be held this year besides those for the People's Assembly and the Shura [Advisory] Council. Many people believe that this has been the government's semideclared objective.

MENA, XINHUA Officials Discuss Satellite Rights

NC0407134795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1325 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 Jul (MENA)—Mustafa Najib, MENA's chairman of the board and chief editor, received today (Zhia Zhan Zhahong), the first deputy chief of the NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY, XINHUA, and the accompanying delegation, which includes eight employees of the agency.

The two sides discussed strengthening cooperation between the two news agencies in the field of exchanging news, pictures, and press investigations. They also discussed the possibility of giving XINHUA the sole right

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to distribute MENA's casts transmitted through satellite in China.

MENA is scheduled to open a bureau in Beijing soon.

Libya

General People's Congress Issues Decisions

LD0507072495 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The General People's Congress has made the following decisions at the end of its proceedings:

Decision number one of the General People's Congress for 1424 since the birth of prophet Muhammad [AM] on the selection of members to the Secretariat of the General People's Congress. [passage omitted]

Article One: The General People's Congress has chosen the following brothers for the following posts:

Brother Mahmud al-Hadyi	assistant secretary of the General People's Congress
Sister Thuriyah Ramadan Abu Tabrika	secretary in charge of Women's Affairs
Brother Ahmad 'Ibrahim Mansur	secretary in charge of People's Congresses' Affairs
Brother Ali al-Sha'ri	secretary in charge of the People's Committees' Affairs

Article Two: This decision comes to force from the date of issuance; it will be published in the official gazette and other information organs. [passage omitted]

Decision number two of the General People's Congress for 1424 AM on the selection of members to the Secretariat of the General People's Committee. [passage omitted]

Article One: The General People's Congress has chosen the members of the Secretariat of the General People's Committee as follows:

Dr. Muftah al-Khuzah	secretary of the General People's Committee for Industry and Mines
Engineer al-Bukhari 'Awdah	secretary of the general People's Committee for Tourism
Dr. Mas'ud Abu Suwwah	secretary of the General People's Committee for Animal Resources
Sister Fawziyah Bashir Shalabi	secretary of the General People's Committee for Information and Culture

Article Two: This decision comes to force from the date of issuance; it will be published in the official gazette and other information organs. [passage omitted]

Decision number three issued by the General People's Congress for the year 1424 AM concerning the selection of the deputy governor of the Libyan Central Bank.

The General People's Congress has chosen brother al-'U'ayli al-Hadi al-Thurayni deputy governor of the Libyan Central Bank. [passage omitted]

Al-Qadhdhafi Makes Speech to Congress

LD0507165495

[FBIS Editorial Report] Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic at 1229 GMT on 5 July broadcasts a 118-minute recorded speech by Libyan Leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at the the final session of the General People's Congress in Sirte on 4 July.

Al-Qadhdhafi begins by speaking about what he calls "a fundamental revolutionary topic pertaining to people's power," namely the concept of commune. With time, he says, communes will become sovereign. Popular masses in communes will be able to rule themselves, decide what is good for them, and manage all aspects of social and economic life locally. It will then be possible for central authorities and state institutions to disappear gradually. This will crown the success of the people's power in the unique Libyan Jamahiri system.

Al-Qadhdhafi says how wealth could be in the hands of Libyans and states that "wealth should be handed over to the people which should then manage it wisely." He reiterates what he said a few months ago: Libyans should be able to decide for themselves how oil profits should be spent; they should be able, if they so wish, to share all the oil revenues, but then they would not be able to expect anything from the state, or get in cash part of the oil revenues and the rest of the money would be used by local authorities for local needs. With the aid of

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statistics, al-Qadhdhafi points out to his audience where the oil money goes: imported goods, spare parts, foreign machines and manpower for the man-made river, oil production expenses, and maintenance. If they opt for cash, Libyans should think about all this expenditure.

Al-Qadhdhafi concludes by saying that communes should become a model of local responsible self-rule, an innovation of the unique Jamahiri system of government. He emphasises that this is a historic occasion and if the idea of communes works then foreigners would come and admire the Libyan system. He says that from this evening, all Libyans, everywhere should begin thinking about how oil money should be used in the future, make proposals to this end, and come the next session of the General People's Congress next year firm decisions should be made in this context. He urges the media to contribute to the debates.

Al-Qadhdhafi concludes with his usual slogan: "Forward, and the struggle continues."

Al-Kharrubi Resigns Over Differences With al-Qadhdhafi

MM2606134895 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 28 Jun 95 p 6

[Report by 'Ali al-Ruzz: "Libyan Opposition Confirms Resignation of al-Kharrubi, Abu-Bakr Yunis, and al-Humaydi"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — Sources in the "Libyan Patriotic and Democratic Forces' Coordination Committee" as well as sources in the "National Front for the Salvation of Libya" [NFSL] have told AL-HAYAH that Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has accepted the resignation of Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, inspector general of the Army and veteran member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], and that Army Commander Colonel Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir and Chief of Intelligence Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, both RCC members, submitted their resignations last week.

The NFSL (led by Dr. Muhammad al-Muqaryif) says that "this is not the first time that differences have reached this degree of intensity. Relations between the partners in the coup which toppled King Idris have always been tense. Of the original 12 RCC members only these three remained in power alongside al-Qadhdhafi, holding largely sham posts. The rest were: Major Muhammad al-Muqaryif, killed in a suspicious accident in 1972; Major 'Umar al-Muhayshi (executed); and the following members whose roles ended some time ago for one reason or another: Bashir Hawwadi, 'Awad Hamzah, Muhammad Najm, Mukhtar al-Qurawi, 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Huni, and 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud."

Sources in the Coordination Committee (which is headed by Major 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Huni) have told AL-HAYAH that Colonel 'Abdallah al-Sanusi and Colonel Yusuf al-Dibri of the security organ told al-Kharrubi last week that his resignation had been accepted and he had been asked to surrender the documents and files under his control to the director of his office. They said that the resignations were in protest against deteriorating general conditions and the recent decisions made by the Libyan leadership to reduce the role of the Army and strengthen the so-called popular "rotation system" instead. The Coordination Committee sources also said that the authorities last week questioned 'Abd-al-Majid al-Qa'ud, secretary of the General People's Committee (prime ministry), and Abu-Zayd 'Umar Durdah, the former secretary, about their repeated visits to Major 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud at his home in Garden City in Tripoli. They added that Jallud had received a "warning" that he should remain silent "after it was rumored that he was criticizing the regime a lot during his meetings with current or former officials."

The sources also said that leaflets were distributed in the area of Bani Walid, which witnessed an abortive military attempt in the fall of 1993. The leaflets, signed by the "fifth column," criticized the regime and its practices.

The NFSL said that the city of Banghazi was still very tense, that the sound of gunfire could be heard in one of the camps in one of the western suburbs of the city, that three explosions had occurred in the city of Tobruk — in the al-Suqur sports club, the Libyan Airlines headquarters, and near one of the banks — and that the regime had intensified its security measures around Tobruk and erected six checkpoints on the coast road between Tobruk and the Egyptian border (about 200 km).

It added that Ahmad Qadhdhaf al-Damm "has been living in Egypt for some time in his personal capacity in a move which appears to be linked to the differences rocking the regime."

'Thousands' Arrested in Three Cities Campaign

MM0607113995 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 Jul 95 p 6

[Unattributed report: "The Libyan Salvation Front Talks of Storming Operations, Arrests"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH — The National Front for the Salvation of Libya has said that it is concerned that a number of Libyan citizens may have been "killed or wounded as a result of the arrest

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and assault campaigns carried out by security services over the past three weeks in Banghazi, al-Bayda', and Tubruq."

The Front added that its sources say that "security services have randomly arrested thousands of citizens, mostly young men, in these cities, using live ammunition in a number of arrest operations."

The Front pointed out that in the al-Qawarishah area, 10 km west of Banghazi, "security elements used RPG's to destroy a house to in which a number of pursued young men took refuge. The house collapsed on top of those who were inside."

The Front said that several armed clashes occurred between security services and young men who resisted arrest, resulting in casualties. The Front said that it is now common to hear the sound of shots in Banghazi at night. Armed roadblocks are now spread out at the main exits and on a number of the city's streets. And the regime's services are currently running patrols. The task of these roadblocks and patrols is to check people's identity and search vehicles, especially at night. These measures have caused citizens to refrain from going out at night lest they be mistreated and arrested on any suspicion.

The Front spoke of tension in al-Bayda' (200 km east of Banghazi) and of arrests in Tubruq.

JANA Commentary Refutes Statements by UK's Rifkind

LD2906153895 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1445 GMT 29 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tripoli, 29 Jun (JANA) — On 27 June the English FINANCIAL TIMES newspaper, which specializes in economic affairs, reported exclusive statements by English [as received] Defense Minister Michael Rifkind about the likelihood of Libya threatening British protectorates in the Mediterranean basin with self-propelled missiles. Commenting on this, the JANA political editor stressed that these statements are very regrettable, given that irrefutable facts prove that Libya does not possess weapons that could pose a threat to anyone. Moreover, as a responsible state Libya does not think about engaging in an aggression against anyone. On the contrary, Libya has always been subjected to aggression, terrorism, threats, and blackmail. [passage omitted]

The editor says: While we are surprised by these statements, we stress that there is no state of war between us that would require threats from any side, and there is no conflict at this level.

The political editor pointed out that the United Nations should be made aware of these statements and their serious repercussions, considering that Britain is a permanent member of the United Nations and the United Nations is in charge of protecting international security, maintaining world peace, eliminating tensions between states, and deepening the prospects of cooperation based on mutual respect.

The JANA editor concludes his commentary by stressing that Libya endeavors to achieve development on its territory and to contribute effectively to turning the Mediterranean Sea into a basin of peace, security, and cooperation.

Sudan

Al-Bashir on Settling Water Issue With Cairo

NC0507190995 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Jul 95

[Report by Hasan Zaytuni in Khartoum]

[FBIS Translated Text] When Egyptian-Sudanese relations became tense and the war of words escalated between them in the past few days, many options of confrontation, including the military option, were considered.

In these circumstances officials in Khartoum warned that Sudan might resort to using the Nile River's water as a bargaining chip if Egypt carried out a military offensive. At this point the Nile River's water became a sensitive turning point in the differences between the two countries in light of the river's importance to the life of the two nations.

In an exclusive interview with MBC, Sudanese leader Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir emphasized that this is a strategic issue and could be settled under accords signed between Cairo and Khartoum. These accords, he added, were concluded after extensive negotiations and studies, which began in 1936 and concluded with a final accord in April 1974.

[Begin al-Bashir recording] We know the importance of the Nile's water to the brothers in Egypt. Perhaps it was our conviction of this importance that prompted the Sudanese people to accept the building of the High Dam, which flooded very dear territories in Sudan. The flooded land was the home of the first civilization. Some of the Sudanese people sacrificed this cherished land, sacrificed their history and homes, and moved to other areas to serve our brothers in Egypt.

We realize this is a strategic issue and are concerned about it. We [word indistinct] these strategic issues and

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also ask the other side to consider such economic ties. There is an agreement in place governing the use of water and people are committed to this agreement. [end recording]

The Nile River's water is a blessing for this region's nations and natural, vital wealth. All the people are partners in the rational use of this water. Many people believe it should not be involved in the differences between Cairo and Khartoum, to preserve the short and long-term higher interests of the two nations.

Al-Turabi: Islamic Faith To Cleanse Egypt

AB0507191295 Paris AFP in English
1540 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, July 5 (AFP) — Sudan's spiritual leader Hassan al-Turabi accused Egypt of lacking faith but said his country's belief in Islam would sweep north and cleanse its neighbour, the official news agency SUNA said Wednesday [5 July].

"Egypt is today experiencing a drought in religion and faith. A catastrophe has befallen the Egyptians," al-Turabi said.

"Allah (God) has willed that Islam be revived from Sudan and Islamic religion will flow along with the waters of the Nile to cleanse Egypt from obscenity," he added.

Al-Turabi made the remarks during a public lecture earlier this week in Medani, capital of Gezira state in central Sudan, the news agency said.

His speech followed allegations by Egypt's President Husni Mubarak that Sudan was implicated in a failed attempt to kill him at an African summit in Addis Ababa on June 26. Khartoum has denied the charge.

Al-Turabi said of Mubarak: "When he dared to go to take part in the African summit, the sons of Moses stood up to him, made him go back after he was filled with fright and horror and he unleashed accusations against Sudan."

He recalled he had previously spoken with Mubarak about thought, politics, religion and faith.

"I found out that the man was far below the standard of what I have said and too dumb to understand my speech," al-Turabi added.

Further on al-Turabi Comments

AB0507215695 Paris AFP in French
1612 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 5 Jul (AFP) — Sudan's power behind the throne, Hassan al-Turabi, has paid tribute to the authors of the abortive plot against Egyptian President Husni Mukarak in Addis Ababa on 26 June. He described them as being "Mujahedins" — combatants of faith.

Right from the Egyptian soil "a group of Mujahedins" has emerged to pursue Husni Mubarak, the Egyptian Pharaoh, everywhere he goes," he said in a statement at the beginning of the week, published today by the official SUDANESE NEWS AGENCY, SUNA.

The Armed Egyptian extremist organization, Jamaa Islamiya, has claimed responsibility for the abortive attack launched in Addis Ababa while Mr. Mubarak was on is way to attend the OAU summit.

Commenting on the attempted assassination plot, the Sudanese Islamic fundamentalist leader stated at a meeting in Medani, the capital of the state of Guezirah, 185 km south of Khartoum, that "when Mubarak dared to go to Addis Ababa to attend the OAU summit, the sons of the Prophet Moses — the Muslims — rose up against him, confounded his plans, and sent him back to his country — he was so terrified and horrified that he poured accusations on Sudan."

The Egyptian president has accused al-Turabi of being the brain behind the plot.

"Faith and religion have currently dried up in Egypt. Egyptians have been hit by a calamity. Allah wants Islam to be revived from Sudan up along the Nile to cleanse Egypt of its stains," he stressed.

He said that he had held talks in the past with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on "politics, religion, and principles." Mr. Tourabi then said: " I found the man to be very far below my level of thinking and my views, and too stupid to understand my pronouncements."

Mr. Tourabi, who is the secretary general of the Arab-Islamic Popular Conference based in Khartoum, stated that Sudan had "a leading role" to play in the global renaissance of Islam.

"The West views the Islamic movement with great anxiety, because the unity of Muslims constitutes an immense danger that threatens Western interests."

He criticized the Sudanese opposition, and described its members as "men of the past who are today trying to reconcile and team up with John Garang, the leader of the South Sudan rebels, as well as with Christians and Jews in order to protect them from the implementation of Islamic shari'ah law.

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Minister: Assassination Contravenes Islamic Values

EA2906210095 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Mahdi Ibrahim, the minister of state at the presidency of the Republic, has stressed that Sudan rejects and condemns all methods inclined toward assassinations because they contravene Sudanese values and traditions which emanate from Islamic values. On the Egyptian regime's accusation that Sudan was involved in the attempt to assassinate its president, he said: We reject the inclusion of Sudan's name in the list of terrorist states. He added that such accusations were a defective phenomenon affecting Egypt's policy, saying Sudan rejected any accusation from any quarter. He said: Egypt's rulers should be the last to talk about the phenomenon of assassination; what is happening in Egypt is an internal conflict between the government and the Islamic groups.

Mr. Mahdi Ibrahim said that Egypt was rejecting the holding of a positive dialogue and was persisting in its conduct in response to American and Zionist pressures.

Speaker: Government Innocent of Assassination Bid

EA0507203395 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, speaker of the Transitional National Assembly, has stressed that the statement issued by the Ethiopian Interior Ministry on the recent incident of aggression against the Egyptian president in Addis Ababa is proof that Sudan has no connection with terrorism, and that it is innocent of the charge by the president of the Egyptian regime accusing Sudan of involvement in the incident. In a statement to the Sudan news agency, his excellency said the statement was a reply to all the accusations. He said: We advise the Egyptian regime to hold a calm dialogue with the groups opposed to it, so as to extricate itself from this situation.

Assembly Chairman Condemns Egyptian Actions

EA0107131895 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 2245 GMT 30 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Eng Gwang Tong, the chairman of the Peace Committee in the Transitional National Assembly, has condemned the iniquitous aggression carried out by the Egyptian regime against the Sudanese territories in the Abu-Ramad area in Hala'ib. He said the Egyptian provocations are targeting the stability of Sudan and the unity of its territories.

Gwang Tong added that the conspiracies being hatched by the Egyptians do not serve the two countries' interests, and will not comply with the aspirations of the enemies of the nation. He called on the international community to condemn the enemies and the Egyptian aggression against Sudanese territories.

Minister Claims Egyptians Shelling Hala'ib Area

EA0507160395 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Sudan has welcomed the results of the investigations by the Ethiopian security organs into the attempt to assassinate the president of the Egyptian regime, Husni Mubarak, in Addis Ababa. The investigations clarified that the engineers of the assassination attempt were Egyptians. This was announced by Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din Atabani, the minister of state at the Foreign Ministry, at the ministry's regular forum today. He affirmed that the results of the Ethiopian investigations absolved Sudan from the accusations against it by the Egyptian regime.

Dr. Atabani said the Egyptian escalation in the Hala'ib area was still continuing. He referred to the Egyptian regime's recent provocations in Hala'ib. He added that the Egyptian escalation in the Hala'ib area was continuing, in that Egyptian aircraft carried out four provocative missions over Hala'ib, while the Egyptian Forces carried out artillery shelling in the Red Sea. Dr. Atabani said the Sudanese Armed Forces were capable of repulsing every aggression against them.

The minister of state at the Foreign Ministry explained that the Egyptian Government's decision to reduce the number of Sudanese flights to Egypt was intended to curtail the relations between the two peoples.

He affirmed that the only way out of the Hala'ib crisis was acceptance of international arbitration. He called on the Egyptian Government to agree to the principle of arbitration in this case. Dr. Atabani pointed out that Sudan did not approve of military options, believing that military options could not resolve any issue.

About the Eritrean movements in eastern Sudan, he said the Sudanese Armed Forces were capable of repulsing any aggression against them.

In a new esclation of the situation, the Egyptian regime has detained, tortured, and deported a number of Sudanese students representing the higher committee for the welfare of Sudanese students in Egypt. The general union of Sudanese students will hold a news conference at noon today at the Sudan news agency to describe the torture to which they were subjected by Mubarak's security organs.

Dr. Atabani denied that Sudan sponsored terrorism, pointing out that the world's powers of arrogance which

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were accusing states of sponsoring terrorism should define the absolute and constructive criteria of such accusations. [passage omitted]

Former President Numayri Calls Hala'ib Egyptian

NC0507101595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0940 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 5 Jul (MENA)—Former Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri has asserted that Hala'ib is one hundred percent Egyptian and that Sudan has no rights there. He said that the al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime has raised a hue and cry over this issue to divert attention from Sudan's seething internal problems.

In an interview to be published in the 7 July issue of the magazine AL-MUSAWWAR, Numayri said there are many facts implicating al-Turabi in the attack on President Husni Mubarak, including his sheltering and training of extremist elements and his sending them abroad to carry out acts of sabotage.

Numayri explained that there are many terrorist training camps in Khartoum supervised by Iranians. The terrorists get their weapons from the Sudanese Army and al-Turabi's National Islamic Front.

Arab League Mediation in Crisis With Egypt Urged

NC0307170195 Paris AFP in English 1403 GMT 3 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, July 3 (AFP) — Sudan called for Arab League mediation on Monday [3 July] to prevent an escalation in its crisis with Egypt, which has accused Khartoum of involvement in last week's assassination bid against President Husni Mubarak.

The Sudanese ambassador in Cairo, Ahmad al-Tayyib al-Kurdufani, told reporters his country was "eager to prevent the situation degenerating and to contain the crisis."

It wants Arab League secretary general 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid "to use his good offices," he said, after meeting the 22-member organisation's chief.

Sudan has protested to the UN Security Council after clashes last week in the disputed border territory of Hala'ib during which Khartoum says a Sudanese officer and two policemen were killed.

Egypt has threatened to take action against Sudan after implicating Khartoum in the June 26 abortive bid to assassinate Mubarak in Addis Ababa. Sudan has denied any involvement.

Students Allege Mistreatment by Egyptian Authorities

EA0507190195 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A number of Sudanese students who represent the Higher Committee for the Welfare of Sudanese Students in Egypt have exposed the Egyptian regime's actions and conspiracies against Sudan's Islamic cultural course — in a new escalation of the situation — by detaining, torturing, and deporting some of them.

Student Ahmad 'Uthman Hasan, chairman of the Higher Committee for the Welfare of Sudanese Students in Cairo, today explained at the Sudan news agency forum that these detentions and provocations were not the first, but part of a series of detentions and searchs of these students and their leaders. He said the aim was to pressure the students into issuing a statement condemning the attempt to assassinate the president of the Egyptian regime and condemning the Sudanese Government. The students and their leadership were urged to march to congratulate the president of Egypt on his escape from the attempt, to submit regular reports about the activities of the Sudanese Embassy in Cairo, and to issue a statement about the legitimacy of Egypt's claim to Hala'ib. He said that when they rejected these demands, they were told that their presence in Egypt was undesirable. After that the Egyptian state security organ began a series of tortures.

Student Ahmad Muhammad Ahmad, head of the Cairo branch of Sudanese students, then spoke about the torture and detention they had undergone to persuade them to divulge information about the activities of the Sudanese Embassy in Egypt.

The chairman of the students union said the conspiracy was growing, and was designed to serve foreign interests. He said the role of the union now was to strive for the return of the remaining students there, and to arrange for them to be absorbed by Sudanese universities.

Opposition Spokesman Urges 'Popular Rebellion'

NC2906072995 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0435 GMT 29 Jun 95

[Interview with former Foreign Minister Faruq Abu-'Isa, currently NDG spokesman, in Egypt, by Mahmud Marzuq, in Cairo, on 28 June — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Marzuq] What do you have to say about black terrorism?

[Abu-'Isa] This insane terrorism, whether based on religious or ethnic extremism, has become a danger,

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a cancer. Since Hasan al-Turabi's National Islamic Front seized power in Khartoum six years ago, the NDG has been warning that the Front is evil and believes in rejecting other people and killing its rivals. Its members dream of establishing an al-Turabi-style republic throughout the Arab and Islamic homeland in the name of Islam. Islam disavows such people. To pursue their objective, they feel they must seize Cairo, the heart of the region and the nation. This is why, from the start, they showed hostility to the Egyptian people and leadership, because they know that Egypt, because of its history, long struggle, and its pioneering regional role, cannot be infiltrated. They have turned Sudan, the homeland of this kind, peaceful nation, into a hotbed of terrorism and religious extremism. They are assembling young men from the Arab countries and placing them in camps, disguised as farms, where they train them to make explosives and car bombs and fill their minds with religious extremism and fanaticism to spread such ideas in the Arab homeland: in Algeria, southern Egypt, Saudi Arabia, even in Africa and elsewhere. [passage omitted]

[Marzuq] What do you have to say to your kinsfolk in Sudan?

[Abu-'Isa] My kinsfolk in Sudan support us. They are part of us and we stand by them. Members of all the various political parties and affiliations and members of all organizations back us and oppose the Front's regime, al-Turabi's Front. I tell them: Organize yourselves, mobilize your energies, close your ranks. During our latest NDG conference in Asmara, Etritrea, we united the NDG leadership and agenda and made thorough plans to help the Sudanese people to start an overwhelming popular rebellion that can terminate the Front's accursed regime.

[Marzuq] Thank you very much.

[Abu-'Isa] Thanks to you. God protect you, Egypt, and the Arab and Islamic nation from such evil people.

Denounces Regime in Khartoum

NC3006192795 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Sudanese opposition National Democratic Grouping [NDG] has stated that the Sudanese people are living through difficult and harsh circumstances because of the tyranny of the fascist ruling regime in Khartoum and its failed policy, which has squandered the dignity of the Sudanese people, destroyed the national economy, and harmed Sudan's foreign relations. The NDG accused the al-Turabi-al-Bashir regime of exporting terrorism to and inciting sedition in neighboring countries.

The documents of the NDG conference held recently in Asmara and distributed in Nairobi today indicate that all the NDG forces are determined to use political, military, and popular resistance to overthrow the aggressive al-Turabi-al-Bashir regime and set up a democratic regime reflecting Sudan's religious and racial diversity.

Former President Urges Continued Popular Opposition

NC2906164695 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1309 GMT 29 Jun 95

[Interview with former President Ja'far Numayri by Samir 'Abd-al-Tawwab in Cairo; date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] ['Abd-al-Tawwab] Mr. President Ja'far Numayri, Arab citizens want an answer to a specific question—namely, what is happening in Sudan and what is Sudan doing to others?

[Numayri] I believe that the Sudanese people are now being forced to help the treacherous regime of al-Turabi and his terrorist organization implement the various objectives of the regime, namely extremist operations in many countries, particularly neighboring ones.

['Abd-al-Tawwab] Do the Sudanese people support this terrorist policy of al-Turabi?

[Numayri] I do not believe that the Sudanese people agree with it. Many Sudanese have left the country; that was a mistake. They did not resist al-Turabi's actions because they thought he would make the country happy by practicing and implementing Islamic values and tenets. But of course he used these values and tenets for other purposes. The Sudanese people are good natured and they did believe this, but al-Turabi's actions have been exposed to the Sudanese people and the whole world.

['Abd-al-Tawwab] President Numayri, there is a general impression that a large section of the Sudanese people reject al-Turabi.

[Numayri] This is true. Al-Turabi is rejected because he is dishonest. I can say he is a liar. He has exploited Sudan's resources for purposes that do not serve the people's interest. He has brought many aliens into Sudan to operate from there and to besmirch the name of Sudan.

['Abd-al-Tawwab] Mr. President, how can the many honest and honorable people in Sudan support or condone al-Turabi's actions and enable him to exercise this dire influence over Sudan itself?

[Numayri] They have not knowingly permitted this. From the time he came to power, he refused to say that

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he was involved with the secret military wing that staged the coup against the former government. He moved step by step until he succeeded in usurping the country and the authority, and then he started to appear publicly. All the honorable men and all those who care about the country were either abroad or were powerless. He even threatened their daily lives and their ability to feed their families and children. He deprived them of food and water. He caused very severe inflation, so that everyone was busy all day long trying to provide a loaf of bread for his children. Despite the hatred and the opposition to his actions, the people could not come out in the open and say so. Regrettably, al-Turabi and his regime succeeded in deceiving many countries into believing that the government was working in the Sudanese people's interest.

['Abd-al-Tawwab] President Numayri, al-Turabi's policy and methods in Sudan are harming and distorting the historic relations between the Nile Valley people of Egypt and Sudan.

[Numayri] That was one of the first steps he took, to distort these relations. But these relations are much stronger than him. He thought that by doing this he could rise to become the leader of the Islamic world. That was a mistake. He thought, as many did in the past, that if you want to rise you have to be an enemy of one of the superpowers, rail against it, and show you [words indistinct] Egypt, or a major European country, or the United States and so make one say that this or that country does not have close relations, or have lukewarm relations, or that there is estrangement with that country. He wanted to promote and to show his leadership. But he has failed in this.

['Abd-al-Tawwab] Mr. President, al-Turabi's history inside and outside Sudan is known.

[Numayri] Yes, it is well known, but it was known to a very small number of people who could not find a chance to tell about his past to the masses.

['Abd-al-Tawwab] On this occasion, what do you want to tell the Sudanese people?

[Numayri] I tell them: Continue the opposition to this government. I tell them that this is a dishonest government. You have seen with your own eyes how it has destroyed relations with the nearest fraternal country, Egypt, compared to the integration and the close friendship that used to exist between the two countries. As President Husni Mubarak remarked to the masses who came to congratulate him on his safety, the Sudanese people under my government were given around 3,000 scholarships annually in Egypt's universities from the Egyptian government. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Tawwab] President Ja'far Numayri, what would you like to say to the Egyptian people?

[Numayri] I tell the Egyptians that the Sudanese people are still all right and have never approved of al-Turabi's or al- Bashir's policies. The Sudanese people harbor a special love for the Egyptian people and consider only Sudan and Egypt as their homeland. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Tawwab] We hope that this cloud will pass and that the noble relationship between Egypt and Sudan will return to its normal state and will always remain so, God willing.

[Numayri] I am confident that the Egyptian Government, led by brother and friend President Mubarak, whom God has saved from this catastrophe, will not respond to these minor actions by al-Turabi Government and that it will continue its policy toward the Sudanese people. This is gladdening and assures us and all Sudanese here that they are still in their second homeland.

['Abd-al-Tawwab] We thank you, Mr. President Ja'far Numayri.

[Numyari] God bless you. Thank you.

SPLM Bulletin Urges Action Against 'Dead' Regime

NC0407080595 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0730 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Nairobi, 4 Jul (MENA)—The Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] has stated that al-Turabi's ruling front in Khartoum is a dead regime waiting to be buried in the cemetery of history.

The movement's weekly bulletin published this morning pointed out that the time has come for the people of Sudan to walk in the funeral procession of the regime of al-Turabi's front, now that it has disintegrated more than the bodies of the victims of the deadly Ebola virus.

The Ibdayet [as received] bulletin, mouthpiece of the SPLM led by Dr. John Garang, said that for the people of Sudan to survive, they must bury the regime of al-Turabi's front, adding that this is the mission of the parties to the conference of the opposition National Democratic Grouping held in the Eritrean capital, Asmara, recently.

The movement said that burying the al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime requires the popular friends to participate to annihilate the danger of terrorism and extremism, which the regime is working to spread inside and outside Sudan.

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The SPLM clarified that the al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime, which sprung from the dust of crisis and confusion in the history of Sudan, is destined to return to that dust, because those who control their people with the sword will inevitably die by that same sword.

Opposition Forces Conference in Asmara Analyzed

EA2906215095 Khartoum SUNA in English 1712 GMT 29 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, June 29 (SUNA) — A close reading of the final resolutions of the so-called Sudanese opposition forces conference, held lately in Asmara, reveals the success of the foreign forces that funded the planned for the conference in preponderating the scales for the outlaws and their leader Garang at the cost of the northern opposition, who till recently had been disguised under the veil of Islam and allegate their concern with it.

It does not require much effort to prove the fact since the final resolution was void of even a mere hint at the Arabic or Islamic identity of Sudan, the final resolution was a copy of the outlaws movement's manifesto since its formation in 1983. It also seeks of meanings and observations concerning Sudan of which UN official have been bragging as those of Gaspar Biru on alleged violation of human rights in some Islamic laws. [sentence as received]

The second aspect of the final resolutions is mentioning the dissolved Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), and its leader Mohamed O. al-Marghani, before the other sectarian party and its leader, despite the fact that the DUP comes, according to the last elections, in the second position next to the banned Ummah Party, and that it had usually been satisfied by playing the role of maid to the Ummah Party, be they in power or opposition. This obviously indicates the involvement of the state known for its historic alliance with the DUP in this plotted conference despite its diligent efforts to deny suspicion.

The statement commences with saying that the outlaws had deliberated on six fundamental issues among which are the right to self-determination, ceasing hostilities and maintaining peace besides the politics-religion relation. One wonders here whether the war broke out during the salvation reign or whether peace was prevalent under the sectarian parties rule.

It's demagogic to ask others to do things you failed to accomplish why then crying over peace while they couldn't achieve it when they were in power. [sentence as received] They accuse the revolution of fanning the war fire, despite the fact that they are in alliance with Garang who has been the initiator of the war which continued during the 3-year rule and even reached to some northern towns such as Kurmuk, Gaissan and areas in southern Kordofan.

They then considered (Garang) an outlaw and a rebel and described everyone who deals with him as an agent and traitor that culminated when Mubarek al-Fadil, then interior minister, ordered the arrest of the group of academicians who participated in Ambu forum and even withdrew their passports. He now allows himself military coordination with the outlaw Garang.

The so-called opposition gathering should have asked Garang why he continued to fight all governments that ruled Sudan despite differences in their policies and programmes, rather than putting the blame on the salvation which accomplished its duty in liberating the Sudanese soil and kept the rebels in narrow strips forcing Garang to seek cooperation with them after he used to refuse recognizing them.

The talk about self-determination and separating politics from religion raises logical questions. Why did these parties not give the south the right which they now claim they were in power since they are convinced of its vitality? Why did these parties not separate religion from politics or cancel what they called the September's laws or Numeiri's sharia? Nothing has changed and their enmity towards the Islamic orientation of Sudan is suspected.

Talking about self-determination in this specific time and place affirms the tendency of some international forces to dismember Sudan following the Eritrean example. At a time Europe scores economic and technological development and tends to more unity, some of them are propagating for cooperation with America to fix the right to self-determination for African minorities so that they together can control and exploit these statelets which may emanate from implementation of that policy of divide and rule. We here point to the OAU secretary general's statement which says that Sudan is a model of African unity in which various cultures and races are melted and that dismembering Sudan leads to the same in African states which do not enjoy the coherence of population of Sudan.

The statement then diverges to speak about the future Sudan. Will there be Sudan when the door they are going to open can not be easily closed? Nothing hinders a tribe in southern Sudan to call for self-determination after southerners are granted that right.

The statement tackles what it called humanitarian issues when it spoke about religious, political persecution and the status of women. That is definitely a smokescreen to attack Islam on the ground of violates of human rights.

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Why do they call for preventing formation of any in case they succeed, on religious basis. We have before much examples of Christian parties in different part of the world, such as Israel, Italy and Germany.

Our final comment is on the naming of the gathering which called itself National Democratic Alliance. Talking about nationalism, or democracy do not cope with woving of America and Israel. More the two biggest parties do not hold any internal elections since their formation before sixty years, the fact that none of them held second or third conference. [passage as received]

Despite this the Sudanese people have already suffered much from them till the advent of N.S.R. [National Salvation Revolution]

Egypt Said To Help Fund Conference

EA3006210895 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1505 GMT 30 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 30 June (SUNA) — The Egyptian regime provided material facilities for the conference recently held by the scattered fragments of the opposition in Asmara, in coordination with the Eritrean regime through the Eritrean ambassador to Cairo, Muhammad Ali 'Umaro.

AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH newspaper, published here today, reports that Major General (?Hammad), the director of the Egyptian (?Intelligence Service) and a supervisor of the activities of the Sudanese opposition in Egypt, visited Asmara [words indistinct] to complete the final arrangements for the conference. The paper adds that the Egyptian intelligence [services] paid the costs of [word indistinct] and sundries from Cairo to Asmara [words indistinct].

Garang on Opposition Meeting, United Popular Uprising

NC0207161195 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 23 Jun 95 p 13

[Interview with John Garang, leader of the People's Liberation Movement, by 'Abd-al-Karim 'Umar in Asmara; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Umar] Could the meeting of the Sudanese opposition in Asmara be regarded a declaration of war on the Sudanese regime?

[Garang] Our conference was not held to declare or escalate the war against the Sudanese Government. We have in fact been in a war with this government for almost 12 years. Our conference was held to achieve peace. The Sudanese regime could not put an end to this war through the many rounds of negotiations we held with it. It does not want peace through negotiations as evidenced by the obstacles it raised in all the meetings held within the initiative of the "Inter-Governmental Authority for Drought and Development."

Our conference in Asmara was held after many consultations and intensive talks between the Sudanese opposition parties through which we succeeded in agreeing on a joint military and civilian strategy to topple the Khartoum regime. We agreed on a clear concept that took the form of a specific program for escalating the struggle and which defined the role of each party. We also set out the timetables for joint action, including stepping up military action when necessary and activating popular struggle for the same purpose.

['Umar] But you are losing militarily in the fight with the government troops in the south, right?

[Garang] It is not true that we are losing. We are waging long-term guerrilla warfare until we achieve our objectives. It happens that we succeed during this war in seizing control of government positions and then government troops seize them back and vice versa. All these are battles in one war which we have not lost. Our forces are present in al-Nubah mountains, Bahr al-Ghazal, al-Istiwa'iyah, and the Upper Nile. Your saying that we are losing might be based on what the government is saying as part of its propaganda campaign to justify the deaths of thousands of its forces and the huge sums of money it is spending on battles. It is taking this money from the Sudanese citizen's livelihood and prosperity. The government today cannot pay the salaries of its soldiers and this caused a mutiny among its troops in Darfur (in west Sudan). Let me say here that the Sudanese Government might get away with it when it does not pay the salaries of teachers for several months and forces them to continue to teach but it cannot do the same with armed soldiers, as this will cost it dearly. We believe that the Khartoum regime is militarily losing in its war against us. Its forces have failed so far in their many attempts to seize the areas under our control on the borders with Uganda and Kenya. The government lost around 10,000 soldiers alone in the battle to seize control of Nimule.

['Umar] Could we regard the "New Sudanese Brigade" which you launched recently as a new southern party?

[Garang] The "New Sudanese Brigade" is not a party. It is a mechanism offered by the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] to all sectors of the Sudanese people as one of the options for bringing down the Khartoum regime. We also proposed it in order to assert that we are a national Sudanese movement working for the sake of all Sudan and the Sudanese. We are not a southern secessionist movement as the regime is trying to depict us. Though our movement

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began in the south and most of its members are from the south, we are still a national movement seeking a united, democratic, and just Sudan. The notion of the "New Sudanese Brigade" was basically meant for our people in north Sudan. Despite the SPLM's nationalist orientation, we became preoccupied with the daily war in the south and therefore launched this notion that focuses on the problems and issues of the north.

['Umar] What are the specific objectives of this brigade?

[Garang] The "New Sudanese Brigade" is a force that engages in both political and military action. It is one of the means we have recently adopted to develop and strengthen the SPLM through cooperation with the other political and military forces opposed to the Khartoum regime. The aim is bring the latter down militarily, prepare the conditions for bringing it down through a popular uprising, or through both means.

['Umar] Does this mean that you will stage military operations inside Khartoum?

[Garang] This is what the Sudanese regime is now propagating. This is not the brigade's task. Its basic task is to show the support and backing of the SPLM, which is fighting in the south, for the brothers in the north who are suffering from the repression of Khartoum's fascist regime. This means strengthening the ties between us and the northerners within a mechanism that would speed up the popular uprising against the government.

The northerners who are feeling the injustice and are suffering from the suffocation of freedoms and the attacks on them from the regime are trying to rise up against their negative reality. The "New Sudanese Brigade" provides the mechanism for rising against this reality.

Opposition Radio To Begin Transmission 'This Month'

JN0607073095 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Sudanese opposition will begin radio transmission from southern Sudan before the end of this month. This was announced by Mubarak al-Mahdi, secretary general of the National Democratic Alliance—an alliance of groups opposed to Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir's government. The radio station will be established with international aid.

Vice President on Mubarak, Exiled Parties, Elections

AB0207180695 Paris AFP in English 1744 GMT 2 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, July 2 (AFP) — Vice-President Al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih said Sunday [2 July] that the Islamic regime in Khartoum welcomed exiled opposition parties to join political life in Sudan.

Speaking at a press conference, he also reiterated his government's denial of charges by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak that Sudan was involved in an attempt on Mubarak's life last week in Addis Ababa.

Salih said the government was willing to welcome all disbanded political parties for "participation in activities of political organization."

"The disbanded National Islamic Front has been the first political party to support the National Salvation Revolution whose doors will be open to all," Salih said.

He also said general elections to the country's National Assembly would be held next year and followed immediately by presidential elections.

Salih said turn-out in elections to state parliaments last March was "excellent in some states, good in some and weak in others." He said the weak turnout was due to "shortcomings in registration and in political mobilization."

Government Accuses Eritrea of Border Provocations

AB0207142995 Paris AFP in English 1419 GMT 2 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, July 2 (AFP) — A Sudanese Army spokesman on Sunday [2 July] accused Eritrea for the first time of sparking provocations at the border between the two countries.

"Eritrean elements constantly commit provocations at the border," General Muhammad Bashir Sulayman said without elaborating, cited in the independent daily AKHBAR AL-YOUM.

Asmara broke off relations with Khartoum in December and in June hosted a conference of Sudanese opposition groups seeking to form a unified platform for overthrowing Sudan's Islamic regime, in place since 1989.

"Sudan is capable of defending its security and stability," Suleiman said.

The general said that plans by the opposition's armed wing, The Sudanese Legion, to carry the civil war in

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the south to the north was "destined to fail because it does not correspond with reality in Sudan."

Ambassador to Ethiopia: Bilateral Ties 'Distinguished'

EA0207201895 Omdurman National Unity Radio in English 1800 GMT 2 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Sudan ambassador to Ethiopia, 'Uthman al-Sayyid Fadl, has said the Sudanese Government is paying due concern to its relations with neighbors to promote African solidarity and cooperation. In a statement released on the sixth anniversary of the National Salvation Revolution, 'Uthman al-Sayyid Fadl said Sudan is maintaining distinguished and historical relations with Ethiopia, referring to the joint Ethiopian-Sudanese ministerial committee which was practically established to push ahead the bilateral ties. He affirmed Sudan's keeness to maintain good relations with its neighbors and follow a nonintervention policy in others' internal affairs.

Meanwhile, the ambassador expressed regret over the attempt to assassinate Egyptian President Husni Mubarak that took place in Addis Ababa recently. He refuted Mubarak's accusations against Sudan of involvement in the assassination bid, saying the investigation which is still under way has pointed no finger to any Sudanese national.

Iraqi Minister Delivers Message From Saddam

EA0307190995 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Iraqi minister of labour and social affairs, Mr. Latif Nusayyif Jasim, arrived in the country today with a message from President Saddam Husayn to Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, the president of the Republic. He was met at Khartoum airport by Dr. Awad Ahmad al-Jaz, the minister of the chairmanship of the Council of Ministers, and his excellency the Iraqi ambassador in Khartoum.

The Iraqi president's envoy said in a news statement that the message concerned the latest developments affecting relations between Iraq and the Security Council, particularly in relation to the issue of lifting the blockade — with Iraq having fulfilled all its obligations. President Saddam Husayn's envoy praised the achievements of the National Salvation Revolution in the social, economic, and political fields.

In reply to a question on Egyptian provications against Sudan, the Iraqi minister stated that the Iraqi Council of Ministers had issued a statement on the massing of troops on the border with Sudan. He said: We consider these recent developments as contrived, and which might lead to facilitating foreign intervention. He expressed the hope that the recent events would not affect relations between the two brotherly countries.

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Editorials Review GCC's 14th Anniversary

95P50132

[FBIS Editorial Report] On 26 May, the countries of the Persian Gulf celebrated the 14th anniversary of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Most Gulf papers carried editorials commemorating the occasion. All praised the GCC's record of accomplishments, and some spoke of the tasks left unaccomplished and their future ambitions for the Council.

Abu Dhabi's Arabic daily, AL-KHALIJ, on 25 May published a 1,300-word editorial by Dr. S'aid Abdullah Harib entitled: "Gulf Cooperation Council — the Reality — the Ambition." He discussed the GCC's beginnings and its achievements of the past 14 years, saying: "Nobody can deny that the GCC has been able to achieve many of its goals. It has established homogeneous, effective organizations, with the GCC Supreme Council at the pinnacle. The effectiveness of the Supreme Council was manifested through regular annual conferences that other Arab organizations, such as the Arab League, lack."

Harib continued: "The GCC was able to interconnect its members by a series of military, economic, educational, and political agreements that enabled members to set up a legal and regional bonds for cooperation."

The editorial listed the negatives as the "administrative red tape" that limits the number of programs explored and executed, the GCC's losing touch with the man in the street, the lack of involvement by citizens and organizations, and the mistaken idea by some that the GCC stands for "regionalism and isolation."

Harib stated that: "Though the GCC was limited to the six Gulf countries, it was an initiative for a pooling of Arab states and a step away from division. In their 1981 declaration, the members stated that the GCC was an undivided part of the Arab nation, and the GCC affirmed member states' commitment for swift action toward the unity of the Arab position. If this was the stand in 1981, the Arabs today have a far greater need to affirm the spirit of cooperation. In this regard, the GCC has a role in uniting the Arab position.... Are we going to do it?"

The Kuwaiti daily AL-QABAS on 9 June published a 250-word editorial by Ahmad Abdul Muhsin al-Mlifi entitled: "The Gulf Cooperation Council... Hopes and Ambitions." Al-Mlifi believes that those who witnessed the inception of the GCC expected, after 14 years, to see a unified Gulf "that would symbolize a significant bloc in the economic, political, and military fields within the Arab and international arenas. Has the goal been achieved?" Al-Mlifi believes the unified position was only manifested during the occupation of Kuwait and "disintegrated" quickly afterwards.

He said: "As citizens of a region that sits atop a seething volcano of conflicts that can explode any time, we have the right to expect the leaders of the region to move faster toward Gulf unification. We the people of the region see, after the Gulf War and the occupation of Kuwait, the dire need for more protection in the future. We should translate this need in our daily life by pushing clearer and stronger all that can lead to a complete Gulf unity. Can this be done?"

Qatar

Foreign Minister Discusses Regional Ties, Issues

JN0507201195 Doha Radio Qatar in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr Al Thani has asserted that the assumption of power by His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, the beloved amir of the country, is a matter that concerns the State of Qatar. No consultations were made with anyone and no guarantees were given to anyone, he said.

On the return of His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani to Qatar, the foreign minister said: His return is an honor to every citizen of the State of Qatar. His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, the beloved amir of the country, was very clear in his statement about the place that His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani occupies in the heart of his highness and the Qatari people. Therefore, his return is an honor for all of us and he is welcome among his people and brothers.

At a news conference held at the Amiri Court this morning, the foreign minister characterized the relations between the State of Qatar and the United States as excellent and special. He said discussions are held with it on all affairs, including issues related to Iraq and Iran.

The foreign minister said that legislation will be issued shortly on the question of succession from father to son, and that this matter is agreed upon. The foreign minister said that Qatar will remain a member of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] no matter what differences of opinion might arise. He said that such differences among GCC countries are normal. His excellency described relations between the State of Qatar and the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as historic and old relations which sometimes become perturbed, but the State of Qatar always seeks to develop these relations. He added that his highness the amir gives special attention to these relations. The foreign

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minister praised the wisdom of Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. He said that thanks to this wisdom, any misunderstanding between the two countries will be eliminated and their relations consolidated. He said he is optimistic that the border dispute between Qatar and Saudi Arabia will be solved.

On Qatari-Bahraini relations, Foreign Minister Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr Al Thani said he hopes these fraternal relations will remain strong and normal. He pointed out that the International Court of Justice will continue to look into the dispute between the two countries until a solution to it is found.

The foreign minister said he believes dialogue with Israel must continue in order to understand what it thinks following 50 years of enmity. He stressed that Qatar's relations with Israel have not gone beyond the stage of dialogue that seeks to achieve Arab interests in the era of peace that has been realized between Israel and the neighboring Arab countries.

On his recent visits to Egypt and Syria, his excellency said that the two visits have nothing to do with recognition, but with the fact that the two countries are members of the Damascus Declaration. He said that he conveyed messages to Presidents Mubarak and al-Asad from his highness the beloved amir on the latest developments in the State of Qatar.

The foreign minister emphasized the importance of Iraq in the balance of power in the region. He pointed out that Qatar sympathizes with the Iraqi people in their ordeal and that Qatar abides by all the international resolutions on Iraq and believes in the need for Iraq to implement these resolutions.

On Qatar's relations with Iran, the foreign minister said that throughout history the State of Qatar has never had any problem with Iran. From this premise, Qatar promotes its relations with Iran in a manner that harms no other party. He said that Qatar has friendship and good neighborly relations with Iran.

At his news conference today, the foreign minister said that the economic file is being seriously studied by his highness the beloved amir, whether with respect to free enterprise, privatization, or a plan for integrated development. He said that his highness the beloved amir of the country has high ambitions for his people. This is a heavy burden that his highness is shouldering, and the latter is currently devoting his attention to the assessment of the present government's performance. He added that his highness has asked all departments to assess matters to fulfill the Qatari people's aspirations. The foreign minister explained that the beloved amir has his eyes set on the prosperity of the citizen, but in a studied manner and not in occasional leaps, and these matters are being carefully studied. He said that Qatar adopts an open policy on the domestic and foreign level. He said: We extend hands to any country or people who want to deal with us. His excellency explained that [word indistinct] February will remain a special occasion [word indistinct] His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al-Thani [words indistinct].

Amir Hamad Receives Visiting Dignitaries

Palestinian Envoy Sha'th

JN0507114595 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1110 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Doha, 5 Jul (WAKH) — His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, has received a written message from Palestinian National Authority President Yasir 'Arafat containing the latter's heartfelt congratulations to his highness on his assumption of power in Qatar.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority, delivered the message when his highness the Qatari amir received him here today in the presence of Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr Al Thani.

Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker

JN0507123595 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1100 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Doha, 5 Jul (WAKH) — His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, received here today Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'dun, speaker of the Kuwaiti National Assembly, and his delegation, which is currently visiting Doha.

During the meeting, the speaker of the Kuwaiti National Assembly extended his warm congratulations to his highness the Qatari amir on the assumption of power.

Saudi Arabia

CDLR Bulletin Celebrates Anniversary 'Successes'

MS2906120895 London CDLR MONITOR in English 21 Apr 95

[Bulletin No. 44 of the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights of Saudi Arabia (CDLR) — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]**Your Right To Know — A Year of Triumph: A Quick Review of The Year's Successes**

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This week coincides with the first anniversary of the resumption of the Committee's activities from London. Over the last year, the image of the Kingdom has been completely altered as a result of the Committee's activities and of the activities of the regime itself. It has become extremely interesting to view the achievements of the two sides and to compare how each side has dealt with the different challenges facing them, and then to attempt to evaluate those achievements into gains and losses. One can then attempt to predict the future by analysing these past and present activities.

During this first year, the leading members of the Committee successfully fled from the Kingdom, despite the rigorous security with which they had been surrounded. The Committee were then highly successful in promoting the recommencement of their activities from London. There was great success for the Committee in their successful attempt to employ new methods of communication technology in order to let the world hear the Nations true voice and also to ease the transmission of information throughout the Kingdom. Yet another triumph for the Committee was their initiative in declaring the public stands of the people in answer to the actions of the regime with regard to many events that occurred, and in particular with regard to the Yemeni crisis.

The Committee had great success in showing the world the actual reality of what is happening inside the Kingdom. In fact, the activities of the Committee have forced the regime to live under the immense pressure of having to react in desperate ways to these activities.

Further success came from the complete utilisation of the media to cover all events connected to the Committee, for instance the wide coverage of the refusal of Dr. al-Mas'ari's political asylum application. The Committee was also able to present achievements of a particularly special nature, such as the political and economic report which exposed the reality of the Kingdom's economic situation and also the production of a documentary video of the events in Buraydah.

The Committee were successful in managing to move and encourage the people at the right time by transferring the directions of the legitimate leaders to the Nation. This resulted in a heavy concentration of people participating in the events at Buraydah and a huge response to the project of "sit-in" protests. This success also convinced the Western media of the legitimacy of the Committee by revealing the true reality of the regime and the enormous credibility of the reform movement.

However, the most impressive achievements of the Committee during this year of upheaval were intrinsically of a moral nature.

Collectively all of the Committee's achievements had an effect on two levels; firstly amongst the people; and secondly on the regime. With respect to the people, the degree of their awakening was greatly increased along with their conviction regarding the legitimacy of direct participation in the reform process. This noticeably transformed the Nation into a more positive and constructive stand. The Committee has exposed the regime both domestically and internationally. Domestically, the regime has been exposed before the Nation because the Committee conclusively proved the illegitimacy of the regime and their actions. On the international front, the Committee has raised doubts with regard to the stability of the regime and their ability to control the situation within the country.

The regime has lived the last year in a state of panic and confusion, and they have dealt with all events in a most reactionary manner, with no thought to the grave consequences of their actions. Al Sa'ud have faced many acute disasters in quick succession and this has paralysed them completely. The resumption of the committee's activities from London was an event which Al Sa'ud found extremely difficult to accept, and their initial concentration was mainly concerned with the breach in security that enabled Dr. al Mas'ari to escape from the Kingdom.

When the Committee launched the use of faxes, using a secure method to ensure people's safety, to facilitate communication with the Nation, the regime attempted to prevent this flood of faxes by all available means, but to no avail.

The regime suffered a huge and embarrassing scandal during the Hajj pilgrimage when many people died as a direct result of the regime's carelessness and mismanagement.

Al Sa'ud were also ruinously entangled in the Yemeni war, where they foolishly backed the losing side with great enthusiasm. The result of this foolishness was the loss of over three billion dollars, as well as the loss of their political and moral reputations. Following this debacle, the regime then confronted the Nation with a heinous campaign of oppression which included the imprisonment of leading scholars and reformers. Al Sa'ud appeared before the Islamic world as oppressors of reform and preachers; before humanity as clear violators of human rights, and before their western masters as an unstable and unpredictable regime. All of this brought the regime to the edge of a frightening dilemma. They are unable to release the reformers as this would be a great moral defeat. However, at the same time, if they continue to incarcerate the reformers

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behind bars it will provide more fuel to the opposition in creating social awareness and cries for justice.

Further to these problems for the regime, came the exposure of the Kingdom's economic crisis and the budget deficit which resulted in the necessity of the regime having to resort to the imposition of wide ranging taxes and tariffs in a desperate attempt to raise revenues. All of this was revealed despite the regime's continued declarations and insistence regarding the strength of the economy.

This above all contributed to the opening of the floodgates of western media criticism of the collapsed economy.

The regime portrayed extreme foolishness yet again in the manner in which they dealt with the opening of the Committee's office in London. The regime missguidedly attempted to pressurise the British Government, both covertly and overtly, and the knowledge of this was used most advantageously by the Committee with regard to the media. The regime reached their peak of foolishness and illogicality when they requested the British Government to intervene to prevent any further media coverage unfavourable to Al Sa'ud, and especially after the scandal surrounding the British minister, Jonathan Aitken and Prince Mohammad Ibn-Fahd. They held on to the ludicrous belief that all Governments control the media in their countries, as is the case in Saudi Arabia.

However, potentially the most damaging problem encountered by the regime was the worsening of internal feuding and conflict of interests within a family whose members is numbered in their thousands. This problem was further aggravated by the weakness of King Fahd as head of the family, along with a loss of centrality in strategic planning and decision making.

In desperate and pathetic attempts to gain lost ground, the regime resorted to cheap and sordid methods of retaliation, such as forgery, bribery, and the dissemination of lies and rumours and even the consideration of liquidating prime targets. Inevitably, this all brought about further disgrace and failure.

These are the achievements of the Committee during this first year and also the doubtful "achievements" of Al Sa'ud. If the achievements of the Committee continue on the same level, and if the struggle between the Committee and the regime continues at the same pace, we believe that the coming year will herald many new developments and transformations that carry even greater weight than those before.

Despite the crises facing the regime on all fronts, it is form within the kingdom, the economic calamity and family feuding that may very well break their back.

With regard to the Committee and their supporters from the reform movement, they will most likely develop with increasing speed and enthusiasm into an active force for shaping future events.

Forgery And The Entanglement of Regime Scholars

When the clique of forgers and their supporters had written their faked communiques, many scholars criticised the Committee on the basis of those forged documents, including Shaykh Ibn-Baz, despite the fact that the Committee disclaimed, on two consecutive occasions, any connection with the communiques and irrefutably declared them to be forgeries. Al-Luhaydan, al-Sadlan, al-'Askar and their followers do not surprise us in the least, as they are part of the same unit, and we believe that they are primed in advance that the relevant communiques are forged. It is most probable that the whole arrangement for advertising such communiques was made through this group. The difference between them and the intelligence agent is not only in their knowledge, but is also in the payment they receive: — they receive tens of millions of Riyal whereas the poor intelligence agent receives only a few thousand.

What is most perhaps more disconcerting is that Shaykh Ibn-Baz himself has fallen into the trap of gossip without attempting any investigation of the actual truth, and he speaks with great enthusiasm, basing his judgement and argument solely on what was written in the forged communiques. He seemed to make no effort, as a prominent scholar and man of great knowledge, to investigate and search for the actual reality of the forged communiques. Such a mistake should never have to be attributed to a man of such high reputation as Shaykh Ibn-Baz, although we would like to indicate the vulnerability of the Shaykh with regard to the ease in which he is manipulated into pronouncing statements about the Committee. We are further astonished at the Shaykh's enthusiasm to talk directly about this case, while at the same time searching for justifications for the actions of the oppressors who threw the reformers into prison and who besieged the reform movement and preaching activities, as well as wasting the wealth and prosperity of the Nation and changing Shari'ah. The Shaykh searches for loopholes and makes excuses on their behalf. He even goes so far as to praise them and their "Islamic" state!

We wonder as to why the Shaykh did not bother himself to find us even one excuse, or even to state that what he said would only be true if the communique had

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actually been issued by the Committee. Regarding the forged communique itself, we have previously indicated in two bulletins that the communique was definitely a forgery and that other communiques were also forged in the name of the Committee, the existence of which we had previously alerted the public about. We confirmed on more than one occasion, that any communique that is not mentioned in the bulletin is not issued by the Committee. However, our supporters insisted that we should reply in detail to that particular communique. Now we are answering in detail and are amazing the regime in that we have found the place and the method of forgery, along with the name of the principle figure involved in the forgery. The forgery of the communique was carried out in the Saudi Arabian Embassy in London in a very simple way, by taking a photo-copy of previously issued communiques after first covering the text. Those actually producing the forgeries are a group of intelligence personnel working at the embassy and led by a non-Saudi personality from a country well known for its oppression of Islamic activities. This figure was an ex-officer in that country's intelligence department and belongs to the same sect that leads his country. The above mentioned agent is a graduate of the Shari'ah University and is renowned for speaking in the name of Islamic groups. He has vast experience in causing conflict between Islamic groups.

The Committee has information regarding a network of people connected to Islamic activities but who co-operate with the Saudi embassy on a regular basis. The Committee will use this information to good effect at the appropriate time.

The actual forged communique discussed a lecture that took place at London University, and as a recording is available, very little argument is required to prove its content. This was not the first, or last, lecture given by the official spokesman. The stand of the Committee, and the official spokesman in particular regarding Shaykh Ibn-Baz was declared and published by the Committee over two full pages in an article entitled "Ease Up Your Eminence". The contents of which are the official stand of both the Committee and its spokesman. The same stand was also discussed in the lecture mentioned above, which in brief stated that Shaykh Ibn-Baz cannot be accused of hypocrisy and treason, but that he possesses weaknesses which make it easy for hypocrites and criminals to mislead him in many cases. This is not only the belief of the Committee, but is also common knowledge to anyone who knows the Shaykh closely. Regarding Shaykh Mohammad Ibn-'Abd-al-Wahhab, the stand of the Committee generally, and of the official spokesman in particular, is that he is a man who is a great preacher and a Mujahid in declaring the words of truth. The message he sacrificed for, and the work he has left, is greatly admired. His preaching of Islam in its full context is the backbone of what the Committee is saying. We have not criticised the Shaykh in even one sentence. What was actually contained in the lecture was criticism of the first Saudi State, and this was legitimate criticism, and was neither insulting nor humiliating to those personalities. In reality, the ones who humiliate Shaykh Mohammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab are those who repeat their praise to him whilst their actions are actually a complete contradiction of his preaching of declaring the truth and exposing tyrants and oppressors. Instead these people defend with all their utmost power, a regime that contradicts Shari'ah and fights reform and reformers.

With regard to the Committee's relations and the affiliation of its members, we declare most definitely that the Committee is an independent group and has no affiliation. We confirm that the Committee has no dealings with any sides in a special way, and keeps good relations with all institutions, societies, centres and Islamic figures.

The Committee refuses any supervision from any side whomever they may be, except the legitimate leaders inside the country.

News — Modifications of the "Sit-in" Protest

Due to the advice and directions of the legitimate leaders to concentrate the activities abroad on the international day of solidarity with the scholars of the peninsula, and also due to their wish to prepare for a more comprehensive project in the near future, an alternative to the planned "sit-in" protest has been put forward. Therefore the Committee wishes to transfer to the public the directions of the legitimate leaders regarding the deferment of the advertised protests to another date.

The Committee apologises to the Brothers and supporters who have already begun their preparations for those protests, but we must follow the advice and directions of the legitimate leaders. We advise the supporters to work hard to prepare the public for further participation in future public activities, in order to force the rulers to listen to the word of truth and to prove to the rulers that the Nation is on the side of their scholars, who have now been detained for over 8 months.

We must prove to the rulers, and to the whole world, that we will not accept the imprisonment and incarceration of scholars. This cause will remain alive and the Nation will never accept anything but their freedom — freedom of their bodies and minds — as their is no room for half measures.

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We appeal to the people who failed to lift themselves from surrender to Al Sa'ud to rid themselves of their undeclared slavery and to fully participate with the Nation along the path to freedom and reform. The people must insist on making the rulers accountable for their actions. Those people who believe that the delay in the release of the scholars was due to the protest, are still thinking with the mentality of the rulers, that the rulers have the absolute right in deciding when they arrest people, and when they release them. **Further Escalation in the Western Media**

The press campaign in Britain has escalated its coverage of Al Sa'ud's scandals in connection with various British politicians. The main spotlight has fallen on the relationship between Mohammad Ibn-Fahd and Jonathan Aitken. Al Sa'ud, with their natural inclinations towards stupidity, added more strength to the campaign, as Sultan Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz contacted the British foreign secretary requesting him to alleviate the fervour behind the campaign. The knowledge of this request was leaked to a newspaper, which in itself turned into a news story.

Last Sunday, at a meeting of journalists, most of the large newspapers discussed the subject in detail and full page stories were designated for this particular case. Some of the newspaper covering the case included the INDEPENDENT, the DAILY TELEGRAPH and the OBSERVER. It was noticed for the first time in the comments of the writers, that the advice to the British Government was not to allow British interests to be conditional upon the whims or demands of one person or family.

The King and his brothers focused their extreme anger on the hapless ambassador, Ghazi al-Qusaybi, and they hold him personally responsible for the outbreak of the campaign, due to his incompetent methods of attempting to put the image of Al Sa'ud in a favourable light. This again led to the ambassador's being forced to swallow an excessive dose of insults and abuse. It was mentioned that a few days ago he was hospitalised for several hours due to a mild heart attack brought on by the torrent of abuse he suffered at the hands of his masters. It has also been said that the ambassador is in a very poor psychological state of mind, and that he is on the brink of a nervous breakdown as a result of his fears of either being sacked, or of being ordered back to Saudi Arabia.

In addition to this anger directed towards the ambassador, what Al Sa'ud have learnt about the ambassador's role in leaking critical information and his plans to use this to embezzle them, has further increased their anger, especially as the information has fallen into the hands of a group who the ambassador had not expected to gain this information. At present, Al Sa'ud are busy preparing a suitable scenario as an excuse to order the ambassador back to the Kingdom.

However, after this publication, they may try to prove us wrong and something else may possibly take place.

The Betrayal Meeting

To complete the information we have already published regarding the betrayal meeting between Bandar Ibn-Sultan and the American and Jewish intelligence departments, the expected meeting between Bandar and Shimon Peres took place and the Committee were informed of the date and place of the meeting. Those details will be declared in the press conference that will take place very soon. The unusual aspect of the reaction of Al Sa'ud to the event of the betrayal meeting was that the Saudi news agencies denied that the meeting took place only after two weeks had passed.

One of the writers in the employ of Al Sa'ud in London wrote an article denying that the meeting took place. His proof that the meeting did not take place was because he managed to contact Bandar in Washington, and it would seem that the writer still believes that the telephone systems are still controlled by the old exchange system. He does not appear to comprehend that a telephone call can easily be transferred any where in the world. The Committee itself has two numbers in Washington which are answered in London. Bandar has many numbers connected to satellites, but registered in Washington.

The farcical aspect here is that Bandar had not co-ordinated with the Embassy regarding responses to this lie, as the answer of the embassy to the writer regarding the whereabouts of Bandar was that he was in Aspen, Colorado, whilst the reply of Bandar to the writer was that he was between Virginia and Washington! The truth is that he was in neither of these places, and that he actually left London for Riyadh on the 29th March. Bandar had actually travelled to London under an assumed name. The Committee has the full details of this false name and the flight number Bandar took, along with the dates of arrival and departure.

The King and the Public Relations Campaign

It seems that the news published by the Committee regarding the details of the betrayal meeting, which included Bandar's statements regarding the tribe of Utayba and giving lessons to the tribes in general, has seriously harmed Al Sa'ud, as it has exposed their intentions towards the Nation in general and the tribes in particular. Therefore, the King is presently attempting, through his tour of rural areas, to appease the tribal heads once again. The King was forced to discuss the

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case in a clear and frank manner on more than one occasion.

Rabi' al-Madkhali and the Royal Privilege

Exceptional royal commands were issued to extend the contract of Rabi' al-Madkhali with the Islamic University for the third time, resulting in the postponement of his retirement yet again. Al- Madkhali is one of the leading figures of al-Jam'iyyah group and also one of the most prominent abusers of Islamic groups.

Al-Baha's Recreation Area

Faysal Bin-Muhammad Bin-Sa'ud Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, the deputy prince of al-Baha, confiscated "al-Qaym" recreation area after tens of millions of riyals had been spent on making the site into a general recreational area for the public. The confiscator immediately commenced with uprooting trees and removing paths etc., in an attempt to transform the area for private buildings. The people of al-Baha were incensed at this action and they wrote in protest to the King, the Crown Prince, the Interior Minister, the agricultural minister and the minister for council affairs, in the desperate hope that someone would solve their problem.

Advertising Causes Imprisonment

A group of students in Umm al-Qura University advertised for a meeting to discuss internal student affairs. The intelligence department considered the advertisement for the meeting to be a call for corruption and unrest. The students were detained for a week, where they were beaten and humiliated.

Our student brothers, be assured that it will not be long before you will have the freedom to form your own unions and societies, and your role will be extended to the society and the whole country, God Willing.

Health Disasters at the Home Cities of Safar al-Hawali and Salman al-'Awdah

A large number of new-born babies died in al-Baha hospital over a short period of time. The hospital and the ministry kept the exact number secret, but it is thought to be not less than nine babies at one time, despite the fact that the reason for this tragedy is well known and is a result of the incompetence of the company supervising the running of the hospital. This company is owned by Muhammad Bin- Nayif. The company was incompetent in providing medicines, antiseptic materials and antibiotics etc.. The ministry is attempting to place the blame onto the hospital manager. The condition of the hospital is still disgraceful, regardless of the protests of the people of the area.

On the other hand, al-Qasim is still suffering from the after effects of the hospital disaster which we mentioned in a previous bulletin.

Another disaster on the health front is expected to occur in the chest hospital in Buraydah, as technical reports inform us that the building is on the verge of imminent collapse. Regardless of such reports, the health authorities have not attempted to solve the problem. We advise the people to take their patients else where.

Keep a Secret!!

Last Tuesday, flight number 1081, from Riyadh to Jeddah, was nearly a disaster. The pilot, due to overloading, was unable to keep the plane's balance on landing, and the left wing touched the ground causing an outbreak of fire. Fortunately no one was injured. The farcical aspect of this incident is that the airport authorities gathered the passengers together in a closed meeting and requested them to keep the events a secret for the sake of the country's reputation.

Invisible Repairs!!

The management of the girls college in al-Qasim requested the students to forego their salaries for two months to facilitate necessary repairs to the college. The students agreed, but it was later discovered that this was all a trick to take their salaries, as no actual repairs took place.

Jeddah's Sewers

Jeddah is flooded by the sewers because of the weakness of the network of sewers, and there is a possibility of their total collapse. It has now become impossible to connect this service to houses and buildings. The public were informed in many areas that the sewerage company is not responsible for providing this service to them, and that they may have to pay up to 20,000 riyals in connection fees.

New Arrests

In al-Mithenib City, 'Abdullah Bin-Ghaylan al-Ghaylan was arrested in an attempt to appease the al-Jam'iyyah delegation which toured the cities of al-Qasim, where each city expressed its refusal and repudiation of such people. In al-Mithenib, intelligence personnel were guarding the main electricity switch in the mosque to prevent a repetition of the Buraydah incident where the electricity was turned off and chaos took place. The people of al-Mithenib therefore simply switched off the electricity for the whole area!

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Another Trick To Escape Contractual Obligations

The Government discovered a new trick to escape the crisis of being unable to meet contractual obligations by paying budget bonds as an alternative to cash, along with annual interest. The fact is that this exacerbate the problems. We do not believe that this proposal will be acceptable to the contractors.

'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Fahd and The Pilgrims

'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Fahd decided to change the overland pilgrims arrival point into a huge housing and commercial estate. He instructed the appropriate authorities to provide an alternative arrival point for the pilgrims. The original land was awarded to him as a gift from his father, King Fahd. This action involves two crimes; the confiscation of the land and the harassment of pilgrims.

The Budget Seeks Help From School Canteens!

The education minister officially circulated a memorandum to all educational management districts instructing them to cover the contracts of cleaning companies in schools from the profits of the canteens.

Yemen

GPC Elects Assistant Secretaries General

JN0507140695 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The General Committee of the General People's Congress [GPC] held its first session yesterday after being elected by the Standing Committee under brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and chairman of the GPC. The General Committee discussed issues related to the GPC's future tasks.

The GPC Standing Committee met yesterday under the president of the republic and GPC chairman. The Standing Committee completed discussion of the issues on its agenda. Names of winners in the elections for the assistant secretaries general were announced in this session. The winners are:

Yahya Muhammad al-Mutawwakil,
'Abdallah Salih al-Bar,
Yahya al-Ra'i,
and 'Abd-al-Malik Mansur.

Names of the General Committee members who won the elections were also announced in this session. These are:

Judge 'Abd-al-Karim al-'Arashi,
'Abd-al-Qadir Ba-Jammal,
'Abdallah Ahmad Ghanim,
'Abdallah Husayn al-Bashiri,
Dirhim Nu'man,
Muhammad 'Ali Muhsin al-Ahwal,
Sadiq Amin Abu-Ras,
Dr. Nasir al-'Awlaqi,
'Abd-al-Rahman al-Akwa',
Dr. Abu-Bakr al-Qirbi,
Dr. Ahmad al-Bishari,
'Ali Abu-Hulayqah,
Yusuf al-Shihari,
Ahmad 'Abdallah al-Hajri,
'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Rawhani,
Yahya Muhammad al-Shami,
Salah al-'Ajam,
Muhammad 'Ali al-Shaddadi,
Zayd Abu-'Ali,
Muhsin Rajih Abu-Luhum,
and Hasan Muhammad al-Matari.

Presidential Envoy Returns From Cairo Visit

JN0507112995 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Muhammad Salim Basindwah, adviser to the brother president, returned to Sanaa this evening after a visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt, during which he relayed a message from brother President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to his brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt. The message addressed the good fraternal bilateral ties as well as regional and international issues of common interest.

The adviser to the president also extended the congratulations of the brother president and those of the Yemeni Government and people to His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak on his survival of the sinful attempt on his life, and his safe return home.

Prime Minister Meets PRC Vice Foreign Minister

SK3006043195 Beijing XINHUA Domestic Service in Chinese 0952 GMT 26 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sanaa, 24 Jun (XINHUA) — Yemeni Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Ghani today met with the visiting Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Tian Zengpei and held a cordial and friendly talk with him on developing bilateral relations and issues of common concern.

'Abd-al-Ghani said: Despite their different social systems and sizes, China and Yemen have established solid friendship based on mutual respect. This may be regarded as a good example. Yemen will do all it can to explore the way to strengthen such friendship.

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Tian Zengpei conveyed Premier Li Peng's regards to 'Abd-al-Ghani. He said: The friendly cooperation relations between China and Yemen have withstood prolonged test. The two countries have many common grounds in international issues and face the prime task of economic development at home. China will strive to further develop the relations between the two countries on the basis of the five principles of peaceful coexistence.

Tian Zengpei arrived in Yemen on 22 June.

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Al-Sahhaf Begins Talks With UN Officials

JN0507165495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1605 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] United Nations, 5 Jul (INA) — Iraq's Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf on Wednesday [5 July] started his talks with the president and members of the UN Security Council.

The foreign minister met with Gerardo Martinez Blanco, Honduras ambassador and the UN Security Council president for this month. He discussed with him the development of relations between Iraq and the UN Security Council and Iraq's positive cooperation with the Special Commission.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Riyad al-Qaysi, Foreign Ministry under secretary, and Ambassador Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent envoy to the United Nations.

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf arrived here last night on a working visit to the United Nations during which he will hold talks with the president and members of the UN Security Council ahead of the Council's periodic review of the sanctions on 11 July.

Foreign Minister al-Sahhaf met here today with three ambassadors of the UN Security Council permanent members.

The foreign minister met with French Permanent Representative Jean-Bernard Merimee, Russia's Deputy Permanent Representative Vasiliy Sedron [name as translitерated], and Chinese Permanent Representative Qin Huasun.

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf briefed the ambassadors of the three permanent UN Security Council members on the details of Iraq's cooperation with the UN Security Council and the Special Commission. He stressed that the UN Security Council must implement Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 which stipulates an end to the embargo imposed on Iraq.

Confers With Britain's Hannay

JN0607084495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] United Nations, 6 Jul (INA) — Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf conferred with Ambassador David Hannay, Britain's UN permanent representative, on Wednesday [5 July]. Earlier in the day, al-Sahhaf met separately with the ambassadors of France, Russia, and China. He briefed them on Iraq's continued cooperation with the Special Commission and the agreement that has been reached during the visit to Baghdad by the head of the Commission Rolf Ekeus to settle all that is related to the issue of biological research by next August.

During these meetings, Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf said that once this issue is settled, Iraq will have fulfilled all its obligations in accordance with Part C of Resolution 678. He said that this will behoove the Security Council to execute Paragraph 22 of the resolution which calls for implementation of its obligations vis-a-vis Iraq.

The ambassadors with whom al-Sahhaf held meetings voiced their countries' satisfaction with Iraq's positive cooperation with the Special Commission.

Ekeus: No 'Total Guarantee' on Arms Elimination

MM0507112495 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Jul 95 p 5

[Interview with Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission to Oversee the Elimination of Iraqi Mass Destruction Weapons, by Khalil Matar in New York; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Matar] In your latest report, you seem clearly to have made special efforts to highlight the positive aspects of Iraq's dealings with you. Some have linked this to the Iraqi threats that, unless you close the missiles and chemical weapons files, Baghdad will suspend all dealings with you. Furthermore, following the submission of your aforementioned report, the Iraqis invited you to visit them. What is going on?

[Ekeus] First, I do not believe that I am reporting anything other than actual facts. Unless these facts are made clear, then we should forget all about lifting or easing the sanctions. Second, in presenting something positive, we are only trying to present a picture of what has been implemented and what has not, and then tackle what has not been implemented.

It was for this reason that we could not close the two files, owing to the continuing existence of some problems. We are trying to evaluate what has not yet been implemented to see how far this constitutes consistent behavior representing an organized cover-up and whether it constitutes a basis for the reestablishment of any specific program.

The conclusion we have arrived at concerning these two files is that what remains undone constitutes neither a threat to the objectives of UN Resolution 687, nor a basis for reestablishing the program. This is a serious evaluation.

[Matar] This evaluation has prompted Iraq to conclude that the report is positive and consequently to fulfill its promise-cum-threat either to invite you to Baghdad following the report or to suspend cooperation with you.

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[Ekeus] That is true. What we are seeing is the result of the action we have performed. Our task now is to deal with the biological issue. We are worried about this matter. I hope we are wrong, but we have reasons for concern about some aspects, and for this reason we want clarification of these aspects.

What is evident so far is that Iraq is prepared to continue its cooperation with us. But we wish to reiterate in this respect that, if the Iraqis were to refuse to continue with their cooperation, the victim would be not the United Nations or the Special Commission, but rather the Iraqi people.

[Matar] What stops you now from declaring that you have finished your work on the chemical weapons and missiles files?

[Ekeus] We do not believe that what remains undone should have any effect on the evaluation of Paragraphs 8, 9 and 10 of the cease-fire resolution with regard to the chemical weapons. This is an important statement. We are part of the UN Security Council, whose members are asking for an appraisal of the situation and our view as to how much remains to be done and how much can be left undone, as well as of what has now been clarified.

[Matar] Iraq believes that all your statements and efforts were actually political. What do you say to that?

[Ekeus] That is not a correct evaluation. Our statements are not political. My report explains what has been implemented and what has remained unimplemented. Certainly, my report does not contain everything. Every report has its specific aspects. But if you look at the last four or five reports and try to relate them to each other, you come out with a clear and integrated picture of things such as where the problems lie, where things are still under a question mark, and where progress has been accomplished. There is a great deal of information in these reports.

What are our powers? The Iraqis have been attacking us on political grounds. I believe that this attitude of theirs is neither clever nor responsible and that it will not win them any credibility. On the contrary, it will lose them a great deal. Others, including some UN Security Council members, criticize us on various grounds, such as being too lenient in our dealings with the Iraqis. But these accusations are not based on specific facts and information. This is where our strength lies; it is based on our credibility and the frankness of our staff.

[Matar] You have said that the things which remain undone in the field of chemical weapons and missiles do not constitute a threat from Iraq. Could you explain what you mean?

[Ekeus] First, Iraq's present capabilities do not enable it to launch any attack, either with missiles or otherwise, against its neighbors or, for that matter, against any country in the region. That is evident.

However, I would like to say that there can never be a total guarantee, and this is what we have been explaining in our reports. Because there could be moves made in a field which the Iraqis have not revealed or recorded. In this regard, we try to operate by analyzing what Iraq has obtained, what it has produced, and what it has manufactured. We look at all that and compare it with what we have already destroyed and try to balance one against the other.

We believe that we are about to achieve a balance in the field of missiles, for example, particularly in the field of the Scud missiles which Iraq imported from the USSR, which was the only source of missiles for Iraq. We have calculated the final figure for these missiles, so we can close that file. But what we cannot close in this regard concerns Iraq's production capabilities in the field of the missile industry, despite the fact that we have a good idea of Iraq's production capabilities and its possible embarkation on such production.

The chemical field was, however, relatively more difficult, particularly with the new discoveries that we have made concerning a new type of program. We have defined basic elements in this program and we have destroyed them. This means that Iraq is no longer capable of producing this type of materials, namely the VX agent. We have also discovered sources of other elements. For this reason, we do not believe that there is any threat to the region in these terms.

[Matar] Suppose Iraq asked you to leave. Would it be able to resume production of these materials?

[Ekeus] Yes. This answers your question about our refusal to close that file. But, having said that, I must say that it would take Iraq a long time to revive its program if it wished to do so.

But if we now turn to and remain with the positive aspect in your question, we can affirm to the international community that Iraq will not be able to revive its program without our discovering it. Because we now have a comprehensive monitoring system which will be applied more forcefully and more rigorously when sanctions are lifted.

[Matar] Your statements center on the period of your continued presence in Iraq, while my question is based on the likelihood of your expulsion from there. How long would Iraq take to constitute a threat if it should expel you while sanctions remained in force?

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[Ekeus] If Iraq were to ask us to leave, it would find itself under more rigorous sanctions than the present ones. This means that Iraq would find it difficult to find the money it would need for that.

Secondly, it is possible for the Iraqi institutions that are capable of producing other materials to resume their arms manufacturing capabilities. But this will be unacceptable to the alliance which faced Iraq. If we were to set this aside, we could say that it would be possible for Iraq to produce chemical materials, but that they would be not sophisticated materials but simple materials like mustard gas.

[Matar] You told me a while ago that Saddam has changed from a major symbol into no more than a little man with a gun. But despite the growing number of voices raised in Iraq demanding the suspension of cooperation with the Commission and the recent reports about a coup attempt, Saddam is still in office. To what extent do you think he stills holds the reins of power in Iraq?

[Ekeus] It might be more appropriate that I do not discuss such matters. However, as for dealing with us, I believe that the government is still in control of things.

[Matar] Tariq 'Aziz has made a special request to you during your visit to Baghdad about a month ago connected with the attacks being launched against him by those advocating the cessation of dealings with the Commission. Do you feel that a change is taking place in Baghdad?

[Ekeus] Undoubtedly we have witnessed strong attacks on the Commission. These attacks made us feel that Iraq was not serious in its dealings with the Commission. But such attacks, be they on the Commission or on the United Nations, will only lead to further delay in lifting the sanctions and to greater difficulties for Iraq. It is a self-defeating policy and conflicts with the basic line adopted by the more rational officials in Iraq. I can say that Tariq 'Aziz is one of those who are more rational and who seek to resolve problems through cooperation. I believe that this is the only way, but it needs patience. I am a patient man, too.

[Matar] But you feel that Tariq 'Aziz' views are inconsistent with the general policy, particularly regarding UN Security Council Resolution No. 986. Do you think that Tariq 'Aziz is still as influential as he was before?

[Ekeus] I do not know. I talk about him as a symbol of the group of people in Iraq who talk rationally. His appraisal of things is good. I do not know what he says internally. In my view, he sees progress and recession taking place, but he is continuing with his right course of advocating continued cooperation.

[Matar] Why does Iraq not cooperate with you in the field of biological armament?

[Ekeus] This is something that we cannot comprehend. There are big question marks. Iraq is aware that there are still matters which have not been clarified to us. This could be because they have convinced themselves that there would be no value for them in cooperating with us in the biological field and thus opening the way to other problems that they could not foresee.

[Matar] Do you think that one of the reasons for that lies in the involvement of a number of specific people in Iraq in this problem and in what that would lead to in terms of opening new doors?

[Ekeus] We do not know. As for the facts we have acquired about the biological weapons, they concentrate in the main in a series of import operations which could form an integrated production program covering a major armament operation. This is a serious matter. We do not know whether Iraq has used these capabilities for production or has stored and guarded them, or whether it has manufactured elements and stored them away.

But if they have really done so, what would be the aim of the biological program? Is it to be a substitute for their chemical program, or would it be parallel to the programs that began with the end of the Iraq-Iran war and continued after the end of that war? Perhaps their lack of cooperation could be due to their belief that it is the last negotiating card they have, and so they will not surrender it before the resolution of their political problems.

[Matar] Are you worried about the possible conclusion of an Iraqi-Iranian pact, which is being talked about at present?

[Ekeus] No, not at all. We are talking now about my political belief that the Gulf region countries should cooperate together. This would serve their joint interests, particularly as it will eliminate the possibility of any of them threatening another. The aggression against Iraq was a serious violation of the tenets of cooperation. The Iraq-Iran war was another tragic case.

[Matar] Do you share America's fears about Iranian nuclear armament?

[Ekeus] This matter lies beyond the sphere of my work. However, I believe that the idea of exporting nuclear capabilities to Iran was not a very clever one. I understand, however, that this idea has been put aside for the time being. The only way to deal with that party is through cooperation and openness in the field of technology exports.

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[Matar] Do you believe that the Russians would be exposing themselves to danger by providing Iran with nuclear weapons?

[Ekeus] As I have already said, that would not be very clever. However, the situation with regard to Russia is different.

[Matar] Would you advocate the imposition of some sort of sanctions against Iran?

[Ekeus] No, I am not talking about sanctions. I am talking about controlled openness in the field of trade and technology.

[Matar] Have the Americans approved the final details of the program concerning Iraq?

[Ekeus] No, not yet.

[Matar] Four years have passed since you started dealing with this matter, but so far you have not met with the Iraqi president. Have you asked to meet him?

[Ekeus] Yes. I have twice asked to meet with him, once in the summer of 1992 at the time of the serious development that took place in front of the building of the Ministry of Agriculture, when I was aware of the great potential danger that meant it was necessary to tackle the matter at the highest levels to secure the return of our detained representatives there. I know that I was right in my evaluation of the danger, but the meeting did not materialize then. Luckily, the problem was resolved.

The second time was at the beginning of this year. I did not even receive an answer to the request.

Writer Questions Continued Cooperation With UNSC

JN0307163995 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 25 Jun 95 p 1

[Article by 'Abd-al-Amir Mu'allah: "For How Long? For What?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Let us review the relationship between Iraq and the UN Special Commission [UNSC] since the end of the military chapter of the showdown. The purpose of such a review is to see what Iraq has offered the UNSC, how Iraq has dealt with it, and what the results of this policy were?

Iraq has honestly implemented Security Council resolutions, regardless of the their unjust and harmful nature. Iraq did this to extricate this patient, steadfast people from the embargo and its tragedies. The embargo has claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of people, especially children. They said that long-range missile must be destroyed, and so they were destroyed. They demanded the destruction of several plants, warehouses, equipment, and even buildings — even though some of these are used for peaceful purposes — and so they were destroyed under their supervision. They confiscated all the enriched uranium that Iraq had and the uranium was transported to Moscow under an agreement between the UNSC and the Iraqi Government. They instituted a regime for long-term monitoring, and Iraq agreed to this. They then said that the monitoring regime must be subjected to a trial period, and Iraq agreed. They then said that the equipment was not complete and that Iraq must wait until the monitoring regime is operated. Then came the recognition of Kuwait and the borders they drew, to the end of a list of demands that seems to be endless.

Time is passing by and one year follows another. What has the Iraqi citizen achieved after all these demands were met? If the Iraqi citizen has so far not achieved anything, then when will this happen? What exactly will this citizen get? If this is unknown, then the next question is: Why does Iraq continue to meet any demand by the UNSC in the name of the Security Council and its resolutions? On what basis does Iraq continue to cooperate with it? No sooner the UNSC closes a file than it devises numerous other problems. When will this hateful and inhuman series end? What allegations are they going to make after all this? We, the Iraqis, must answer these questions to see to what extent we should continue to cooperate with this commission. It is now clear that this commission implements the will of the United States, in its policy, approach, and decisions. For how much longer are we going to respond to this game? And for what?

Sudanese Energy Minister Karrar Continues Visit

Relays al-Bashir Message to Saddam

JN0507174095 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1610 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 5 Jul (INA) — President Saddam Husayn has received a letter from his brother Sudanese President Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir.

The letter was relayed to the president by Navy-Brigadier Salah-al-Din Ahmad Karrar, Sudanese minister of energy and mining.

Karrar also conveyed greetings from the Sudanese president, Government, and people to the president and the Iraqi Government and people. He also voiced gratitude for the brotherly stand Iraq is displaying toward Sudan.

President Saddam Husayn asked Karrar to convey his personal greetings to his brother President Lt. Gen.

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'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir and his best wishes of progress and development to the Sudanese leadership and fraternal people.

The meeting was attended by Oil Minister Engineer 'Amir Muhammad Rashid.

Comments on Meeting With Saddam

JN0607075795 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0627 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 6 Jul (INA) — Sudanese Minister of Energy and Mining Navy-Brigadier Salah-al-Din Muhammad Ahmad Karrar has described His Excellency President Saddam Husayn as a unique Arab leader who is vindicating the Arab nation's causes.

In press statements published here today, the Sudanese minister added: In yesterday's meeting with his excellency the president, just as in previous meetings, I have found the president supportive of Sudan, and of all the Arab nation's causes. We have grown accustomed to receiving such constant support from his excellency the president, for he is a unique Arab leader.

With regard to the topics he discussed with His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, the Sudanese minister of energy and mining said: I have delivered to his excellency a message from his brother Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir on the latest developments between Sudan and Egypt and the charges by the head of the Egyptian regime that Sudan was behind the assassination bid. His excellency the president sympathized with the Sudanese position, saying that Sudan was not involved in this bid.

The Sudanese minister added: For our part, we reiterated to His Excellency President Saddam Husayn our firm position, as well as our support for the Iraqi people's efforts to get the unfair embargo lifted, particularly since there are no longer any grounds for maintaining it.

Tariq 'Aziz Receives Sudan's Archbishop Rodge

JN0507152495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1405 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 5 Jul (INA) — Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz today received Archbishop Gabriel Rodge, minister of state at the Sudanese Foreign Ministry, who is attending the Second World Christian Conference currently meeting in Baghdad.

The two officials discussed the brotherly ties between Iraq and Sudan and the foreign conspiracies against the two countries which target their unity, independence, and national interests.

The meeting also discussed the efforts exerted by Iraq and Sudan to strengthen relations between the heavenly messages on the basis of amity, equality, and rejection of the colonialist policies that are based on aggression, threats, and interference in the peoples' domestic affairs.

The meeting was attended by the Sudanese ambassador in Baghdad.

Opposition Group Claims Bombing in Baghdad

NC0307164295 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The al-Sulaymaniyah office of the National Accord Movement [NAM] [Harakat al-wifaq al-watani] has stated that one of its groups has detonated an explosive charge near the 'Aflaqite regime's offices in Baghdad's quarter of al-Kazimiyah. The group distributed leaflets containing the movement's messages and appeals in various quarters of the capital.

It is worth mentioning that this is the first operation carried out by a NAM group against the dictatorial regime in Baghdad.

Resistance Forces Repulse Attack on al-Basrah

JN0407154395 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1415 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A Jihad source in the south reports that a Saddamist force consisting of an infantry company and an armored column last Thursday tried to approach the (Hawr Humayin) area in the al-Basrah Governorate. But the Islamic resistance forces confronted it and forced it to withdraw, leaving behind its dead and wounded and large quantities of serviceable military hardware and equipment.

The source said that the Islamic resistance forces are currently monitoring troop movements and concentrations of the regime's forces opposite al-Basrah and al-'Amarah Governorates in preparation for a new aggression against their defenseless inhabitants.

Daily on U.S. Presence in Turkey, Dialogue With Kurds

JN0407064795 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 21 Jun 95 p 2

[From the "Standpoint" column by the "political affairs" section: "Feeble and Fabricated Excuse"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The declared American excuse which the Turkish Government keeps repeating whenever it is time to extend the presence of U.S. forces on its territory is that these forces exist in order to protect Iraqi Kurds from an alleged military attack by Iraq

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on its northern region, which would compel its Kurdish citizens to emigrate to Turkey and thus threaten their security.

This feeble and fabricated excuse cannot hide the truth that the suspect U.S. military presence in Turkey is aimed at plotting on Iraq, not protecting Iraqi Kurds, as they claim. Perhaps, the best proof for that was the spectator attitude which the U.S. forces in Turkey maintained while the Turkish forces overran northern Iraq, killed Iraqi Kurds, and destroyed their villages and properties.

Iraqi Kurds, just as Turkish Kurds before them, now fully realize that the U.S. forces, which failed to extend a helping hand and to ensure any form of "comfort" during the Turkish invasion of northern Iraq, cannot possibly be there to protect them. In the meantime, the Iraqi Government has not closed the door of dialogue with the conflicting Kurdish factions in northern Iraq. In fact, the Iraqi deputy prime minister announced several days ago that the cabinet's last January call for a dialogue with the Iraqi Kurdish forces is still valid.

U.S. endeavors to maintain the blockade on Iraq is directly affecting Turkish interests which have already been harmed on all levels by this unjust blockade. The United States is determined to maintain the blockade as a pressure weapon on the Iraqi people, and therefore on the states with which Iraq has historic economic and commercial ties, including Turkey.

The delusions which have been created for Iraqi Kurds by forces that are hostile to Iraq have evaporated. These forces have lost their credibility with the Kurds. The wise and humane Iraqi handling of the Kurdish issue will be a civilized model which other Kurds in the region will want to emulate outside Iraq as well.

Baghdad still believes that a national dialogue is the best way to deal with Iraqi Kurds, who can find out from experience and objective comparison where their national and pan-Arab interests lie; under the central national government in Baghdad or under the state of chaos and alleged U.S. protection.

At any rate, Saddam Husayn's Iraq will not give up the gains which its Kurdish citizens have enjoyed under the autonomy. This is a principled stand which has never been compromised with anyone.

The existence of U.S. forces in the region is not only an affront to the Turkish people's national sentiments, but also a fruitless attempt to play the "secession" card in the region. We do not believe that the Turkish Government is ignorant of the dangers threatening all the states of the region and not just Iraq. Perhaps, Iraq is less threatened by such dangers.

Paper Warns Mubarak: Attack 'Will Not Be Last'

JN0607093995 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0620 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 6 Jul (INA) — The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has asserted that the Egyptian national resistance claim of responsibility for the attempt on the life of the Egyptian ruler in Addis Ababa has expunged the excuses advanced by the Egyptian regime to undermine fraternal Sudan.

In an article today, the paper, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, adds: The Egyptian regime has unleashed a tendencious media campaign to promote anti-Sudan sentiments with a view to creating a crisis and projecting a huge political and media offensive so that it, along with foreign parties, may undermine the Sudanese people and jeopardize their security, stability, and sovereignty.

The paper adds: By fabricating premeditated charges against Sudan, the Egyptian ruler sought to show his willingness to serve his masters and highlight his role as a paid stooge who is ready to act on order. This is the very role he has played against Iraq when he turned Egyptian territory into a bridgehead for the colonialist alliance troops during the 30-state aggression. This has also been manifested in his enthusiastically slavish endorsement of the Iraq sanctions.

The paper stresses that the assassination bid, which was claimed by the martyr Tal'at Yasin Battalions, will not be the last. Rather, it is a firm indicator fed by a resistance strategy that aims to rectify the course and rehabilitate Egypt, particularly since the Egyptian regime has placed itself at the disposal of the enemies of both Egypt and the Arab nation.

The paper concludes by saying: The ruling Egyptian regime has used the assassination bid to stoke the climate of terrorism in Egypt and circumvent its crises by mobilizing troops against Sudan and creating an external crisis. But it remains to be said that this regime is no longer capable of remaining in power without the use of terrorism, because the acts of national resistance have increased and expanded; and this will not be to the regime's advantage.

Finance Ministry: Arab Countries Owe $1.3 Billion

JN0407165895 Baghdad INA in English
1203 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, July 4, INA — Iraq has said that the amount of debt owed to it by some Arab countries has reached 1,301,862,000 U.S dollars by the end of last June.

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A Finance Ministry source told INA Saudi Arabia owes Iraq 459,445,000; Syria 360,177,000; Bahrain 259,383,000; Kuwait 134,275,000; Somalia 70,380,000; UAE 16,202,000; and Egypt 2,000,000.

The debt includes debt on loans, value of oil exports, profits withheld by Arab companies and deposits of the Iraqi banking system.

Russia Reportedly Intends To Resume Trade

95LH0186A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 7 Jun 95 pp 1, 6

[Article by Jalal al-Mashitah: "Moscow Confirms Intention To Implement Projects in Iraq"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow — Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz has completed a visit to Moscow during which he held talks with Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and discussed issues of economic cooperation with a number of Russian Government figures. Moscow confirmed its readiness to start projects worth billions of dollars in Iraq and predicted that Baghdad would pay its debts in hard currency and oil exports.

After a meeting with Tariq 'Aziz, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Davidov announced that projects worth $10 billion would be implemented in Iraq after the lifting of the international embargo imposed on the country. He said that the two countries had agreed that trade between them should return to its level before the Gulf war, amounting to $1 billion a year.

He said that his Iraqi guest had confirmed Baghdad's interest in participating with Russia in building a number of industrial projects. These included an iron and steel plant with the capacity to produce 2 million tons of steel a year, a plant to produce 80,000 tons of methanol, and a plant to produce 25,000 tons of caustic soda a year.

Davidov confirmed that Iraq was prepared to pay its debts to Moscow, estimated at $7 billion, as soon as the sanctions are lifted. He said that payment would be made in hard currency and by means of quantities of oil.

The Russian deputy prime minister emphasized that the subject of lifting sanctions "is ripe — the time has come to solve it positively." Baghdad, he said, "has implemented all the demands of the international family."

Tariq 'Aziz's visit was surrounded by an atmosphere of secrecy, especially with regard to his unannounced meetings. Circles closely linked to the Iraqi delegation leaked a report that he had met with foreign intelligence chief Yevgeniy Primakov, who played an important role during the second Gulf war. AL-HAYAH asked one of Primakov's aides about the subjects discussed, but the aide replied with a counterquestion, "Was the meeting held?"

A source close to the Foreign Ministry stated that "all parties" in Moscow had made efforts to convince the Iraqis to agree to Security Council Resolution 986 but that Tariq 'Aziz had emphatically refused to do so and had demanded that Russia work in the Security Council to implement section 22 of Resolution 687, which provides for lifting the prohibition on the export of Iraqi oil.

Correction to Cooperation With UNSCOM May End

WA0607130195

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Sources: Cooperation With UNSCOM May End," published in the 23 June Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 25-26:

Make the sourceline read: 95AA0191A London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 9 Jun 95 p 1... (changing city name to London)

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Beilin Visits Russia on Iranian Nuclear Deal

TA0507155395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russia's plan to sell nuclear reactors to Iran is to be discussed in Moscow by Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin. Beilin left for Russia today. He is also to raise the issue of Islamic fundamentalism which, he will argue, endangers the former Soviet Asian republics. It is understood in Jerusalem that Beilin will discuss a Soviet role in the political process with Syria.

Country Considers Biological Weapons Convention

TA3006162495 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Jun 95 p A1

[Report by Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel is considering joining the Biological Weapons Convention [BWC], which bans the development, manufacture, and possession of biological weapons. The Defense and Foreign Ministries decided to set up a team to study the possibility of Israel's joining the BWC prior to the conference of signatory states at the end of the year.

The work is now in the initial stages. Israel has so far avoided joining the BWC, which was signed in 1972, without giving its reasons. Foreign reports said that Israel has the capability to develop and manufacture biological weapons at the Institute for Biological Research at Nes Ziyyona. The BWC currently does not impose any supervision on signatory states and depends on mutual trust. Russia admitted that it had continued to develop biological weapons secretly for 20 years after signing the convention.

In recent years there have been discussions among signatory states in an effort to work out a supervisory regime and efficient controls. The main obstacle is the ease with which bacteria and poisons can be manufactured and the ability to use biological research on preventing epidemics and developing immunization for the manufacture of weapons. Next year, the fourth conference to study the BWC will convene, and prior to that an international team of experts has been set up to prepare suggestions on the establishment of a supervisory regime.

If Israel joins the BWC prior to the conference, it will be able to influence its outcome and make its own suggestions. Among the neighboring countries, Syria, Egypt, Iran, and Libya have apparently developed biological weapons. Iraq developed and stockpiled biological weapons and has still not responded to all the UN inquiries on the issue.

Syria, Egypt, and Iraq signed the BWC, but have not ratified their signatures. Robert Einhorn, a U.S. State Department official in charge of arms control in the Middle East, arrives here today and will meet with Defense Ministry Director General David 'Ivri and senior Foreign Ministry officials.

Jerusalem Protests Report on Attempt on Mubarak

TA0207145695 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 2 Jul 95 p 6

[Report by Smadar Peri]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli Embassy in Cairo submitted an official protest to the Egyptian Foreign Ministry at the end of the week over a report published by the opposition newspaper AL-AHRAR in Cairo which stated that Israel and the United States planned the assassination attempt against President Husni Mubarak.

Meanwhile, Egyptian Foreign Ministry officials are furious that Israel was the first to report the assassination attempt. "You should have waited until President Mubarak's plane landed in Cairo," an Egyptian Foreign Ministry official said.

Peres Phones Germany's Kinkel in Damascus

TA0607092195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres had a telephone conversation from Jerusalem with German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, who is visiting Damascus. The conversation was held a short time before the meeting of Kinkel and his Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar'. Peres asked Kinkel to relay that Israel is serious in its desire to advance peace without losing time.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the phone conversation was held in the framework of the initiative to convene a meeting of the donor states in Washington, parallel to the signing ceremony for the second stage of the autonomy agreement.

U.S. Seen Pressing Israel To Leave Golan

TA0407162995 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 4 Jul 95 p 3

[Article by M. Ben-Shlomo: "Talks With Syria Under the Shadow of U.S. Pressure"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq briefed the cabinet on 2 July on his talks with Syrian Chief of Staff Shihabi in Washington. "The Syrians have not changed their positions," the chief of staff

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said. However, the government reached the assessment that the talks should be continued. Moreover, the government sees some change in Damascus' positions despite Chief of Staff Shahaq's unequivocal assertion to the contrary. Nevertheless, it remains unclear what the chief of staff told the prime minister. Did he also tell Yitzhaq Rabin that there was nothing new in Damascus or did he perhaps bring back information that he is only prepared to share with the prime minister.

The prime minister has recently taken on an optimistic tone with regard to the talks with Syria. Among other things, Rabin was encouraged by a telephone conversation with U.S. President Clinton. The President noted that he was pleased with the first stage of the talks. In Clinton's opinion, there is definitely room to continue the process. Clinton also said that Dennis Ross, the coordinator of the U.S. peace team, would visit the region in 17 days in order to make some inquiries in Damascus and Jerusalem in a bid to promote the negotiations between senior military officers, which are scheduled to be held during the second half of July.

Dennis Ross' mission will inevitably raise some eyebrows. If progress was made in the meetings between the chiefs of staff last week, then additional talks at various levels must clearly be held in order to reach agreement on those issues which still separate Damascus and Jerusalem. There is therefore no need for a new "shuttle mission" by Dennis Ross. On the other hand, if the chiefs of staff failed to make any progress whatsoever toward promoting peace, then the talks are in a state of deep freeze and there is no reason to expect any real progress toward peace.

That is why Dennis Ross' trip really signals that despite the optimistic tone adopted by Washington and Jerusalem, the deadlock in the talks has not been broken. It is being said that during his visit, Dennis Ross will present new proposals in order to enable the parties to continue the talks both on the political and military echelons. One of the proposals Ross is bringing calls for an Israeli withdrawal from the Mount Hermon outpost, among other things, but stipulates that Israel will be permitted to position unmanned electronic equipment at the site that will meet its security needs.

It is unclear whether or not this idea is acceptable to Israel. Nevertheless, there is cause to believe that the United States will exert all of its influence on Israel in order to secure Jerusalem's agreement to a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights, including from those locations which have the most strategic importance for the State of Israel. [passage omitted]

Inner Cabinet Concerned by Palestinian Agreement

TA0507183495 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 5 Jul 95

[Report by 'Imanu'el Rosen]

[FBIS Translated Text] Grave concerns about the security implications of implementing the agreement with the Palestinians was heard today from the Inner Cabinet members. According to them, the agreement is very complicated and it raises many question marks. Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen updated us from the Prime Minister's Office about the Inner Cabinet meeting.

[Begin recording] [Rosen] The prime minister told the Inner Cabinet members today that there is an agreement on principles, but there are still numerous details which need to be finalized before the agreement can be signed. The ministers did not welcome the agreement; they put dozens of difficult questions to Peres and Rabin, stating that there is no guarantee the agreement will work in the area. For example, Minister Ya'ir Tzaban said that this agreement would make the Guiness Book of Records as the most complicated in history. There are a lot of unfinalized and unclear points yet.

Minister David Liba'i surprised his colleagues when he suggested that Israeli law be immediately extended to Ma'ale Admumim, and when he said that ceding Qalqilyah is problematic and dangerous. Deputy Foreign Minister Beilin agreed with him, saying however: There is no choice; we must give this agreement a chance. The security person of the Inner Cabinet, Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, also expressed fears and doubts, saying someone has to talk with the settlers, explain developments to them, and remove the question marks. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said the goal is to sign the agreement on the White House lawn on 25 July, but he, too, as we will soon hear, is not convinced that this target date is possible.

[Peres] I hope we will meet the deadline, but even if we deviate from it by a week or two, this is no tragedy. Better to have dates and goals than to leave everything open, undecided, and incomplete. [end recording]

During a meeting with Labor ministers the prime minister and foreign minister estimated that the Palestinians will cause a crisis in the talks when they learn that the area which the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will evacuate is much smaller than what they expected. According to them, the Palestinians will control less than 20 percent of the area.

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'Problematic Issues' in Accord

TA0607105795 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Jul 95 pp A1, A2

[Report by Yerah Tal, Aluf Ben, and Eytan Rabin]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] At the meeting with Labor Party ministers, it was also noted that one of the most problematic issues in the negotiations on the interim accord was that of water. Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tzur warned that "the Israeli water economy would face disaster" if Israel relinquished control over the water sources in the West Bank. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told the Inner Cabinet that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat realized he had to invest great efforts in preventing terrorist attacks because as far as Israel was concerned, the most important thing was that the agreement provide a solution for the security problems. Peres said that "there was still a lot to put down in writing," and noted that the experience of the Gaza Strip and Jericho, where arrangements were far simpler, had shown that papers and agreements had to match the situation on the ground.

"Things are much more complicated in the West Bank," the foreign minister said. Rabin and Peres estimated that 'Arafat would be able to muster the Palestinian public's support for the agreement. The ministers who participated in the discussion were mainly interested in the details of the security arrangements and how the joint traffic axes and mobile patrols would function.

The professional experts who took part in the meeting — the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq, Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir, and legal adviser Yo'el Singer — did not provide briefings to the ministers.

Some of the ministers criticized the agreement. Justice Minister David Liba'i proposed to exploit the opportunity and extend Israeli law to Ma'ale Adumim, Ari'el, and Ma'ale Efrayim. Liba'i asked: "Why are we not consulted? Perhaps we have other ideas."

Rabin asked Liba'i what was the basis for his proposal. Liba'i asked Yo'el Singer, the Foreign Ministry's legal adviser, why it was decided that the Military Government would continue to operate. Singer explained that the Military Government would retain those powers which would not be transferred to the Palestinians and that the dismantlement of this framework and the transfer of its powers to a civilian body would have frightened the Palestinians and be construed as an act of annexation.

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 6 July in a report by Hemi Shalev and Yosi Levi on pages 1 and 2 reports that "senior government sources in Jerusalem have expressed concern about plans to hand over control of the Palestinian villages near Jerusalem to the Palestinian Authority. The sources are opposed to the proposal that Palestinian policemen or inspectors be permitted to operate in these villages, with the Israeli army retaining overall security responsibility."

[Later in the same report, MA'ARIV adds: "Senior security sources yesterday said that 'it will be impossible to pull out of Ramallah and Bethlehem before the spring of 1996. Anyone who says otherwise is wrong and misleading others.' According to the sources, the building of the bypass roads, a prerequisite for implementing the redeployment, will not be completed before April 1996."]

Defense establishment and Prison Services Authority officials have almost completed the first list of Palestinian prisoners slated to be released prior to the signing of the interim accord. Between 600 and 800 security prisoners will be released in the first stage.

The release will take place several days before the signing of the agreement, scheduled for 25 July in Washington. Defense sources said that none of the candidates for release "have blood on their hands." The list includes several dozen Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] prisoners. These, however, have not carried out any terrorist attacks against soldiers or Israeli civilians. The prisoners will be required to sign a commitment renouncing violence. [passage omitted]

The defense sources denied rumors that Fatah terrorist Samir Quntar, who was convicted of murdering the Haran family in Nahariyya, was included in the list of prisoners scheduled for release. They also said that Hamas leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin will not be released.

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 6 July in a report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer on pages 1 and 19 notes that "Israel has advised Yasir 'Arafat not to visit Jerusalem even after the interim accord is signed. The issue came up in the talks between Foreign Minister Peres and 'Arafat. At the same time, it has been learned that 'Arafat plans to concentrate in Ramallah all the Palestinian Authority's institutions in the West Bank and he himself will reside either in Ramallah or Jericho.

"The Palestinian team, headed by Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'] and the Israeli team headed by Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir, continued their efforts to formulate the draft of the interim accord in Jerusalem yesterday. The two major issues that remain unresolved

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are the future of the state lands and water. Israel has already pledged to turn over to the Palestinians areas defined as state lands inside the towns and villages the IDF will pull out of. The intention is to transfer to the Palestinians state lands in all the rural areas of the West Bank, with the exception of the areas inside the Jewish settlements.

"The Palestinians dispute the term 'state land' which is an Israeli term coined by Pli'a Albeck [former Justice Ministry official]. Successive Israeli Governments have defined as 'state land' not only the lands which belonged to Jordan prior to the 1967 war but also every plot of land which was not legally registered in Israel's view. Even land that was not cultivated by its owners for a few years was registered as 'state land.' The Palestinians regard these plots as private property. The land issue will be discussed in principle during the negotiations on the permanent arrangement.

"As for water, Israel is inclined to propose a division of water sources to the Palestinians. There are two underground aquifers in the West Bank. Israel will propose to keep one aquifer and give the second one to the Palestinians. Israel will also propose the establishment of a joint sewage and drainage authority."]

Peres: Let Arab States Safeguard Israeli Borders

TA0607110395 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 6 Jul 95 p 2

[Report by Evelyn Gordon]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It is better for Arab countries to defend Israel's borders than for Israel to need to invade them to do so, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told the Knesset yesterday.

Peres was responding to five motions for the agenda regarding the planned redeployment in the territories, in which opposition MKs [Knesset members] attacked the move as endangering Israel's security, while coalition members praised it.

"It is more logical for Jordan, for instance, to defend the border with Israel, than for Israel to cross the border and defend itself from the Jordanian side," Peres said in his response.

"I see nothing wrong with the Jordanian government preventing residents of al-'Aqabah from shooting at Elat. We don't need to go to al-'Aqabah to defend Elat, and we don't need to go to Nabulus to defend Kefar Saba. If there are forces that are willing to fight terror... there is no need for Israel to conquer the entire Middle East."

"It is easier for the Palestinians to fight Palestinian terror than for us to do so," Peres said. "We are talking about full autonomy, with a strong Palestinian police which will include Jordanian citizens."

"Nabulus didn't become Arab because of our agreement with the PLO," he continued, noting that 300,000 Arabs live in the city. "Nabulus is Arab.... And Gaza didn't become Arab because of our agreement with the PLO. Gaza is Arab."

"We will work out our relations with the Palestinian people... on the basis of mutual respect," he concluded. "All people were born equal, and they can live in peace."

Peres on Redeployment, Elections, Syrian Track

TA0507165095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says he hopes Palestinian elections will take place by the end of the year. Peres says that, before the elections, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will withdraw from all the main towns in the West Bank, apart from Hebron, Bethlehem, and Ramallah. He said Israel and the Palestinians will set up joint committees to discuss the future of these problematic towns. Peres spoke today at a joint news conference with Italian Foreign Minister Susanna Agnelli:

[Begin Peres recording] The DOP [Declaration of Principals] is talking about two kinds of redeployment: One, a redeployment from populated areas, so as to enable the Palestinians to have free and democratic elections, and that is what they are doing now. And this should have taken place a year after the establishment of the Palestinian Authority, and we do hope very much that, as a result of our agreement, the Palestinian people will have the opportunity — for the first time in their history — really to enjoy free democratic elections, which I hope will take place before the end of the year.

The second redeployment, the further redeployment, does not have a date; it has a purpose, and that is to complete the full autonomy as it was written down in the DOP. We have committed ourselves, we have agreed, that the second redeployment will be completed before the middle of 1997.

On Hebron, Bethlehem, and Ramallah we shall appoint special joint committees to see what are the best ways to guarantee free elections. We shall try to appoint these committees right away, so even before the signature of the agreement, we shall be able to publish exactly what will be the circumstances for having on one hand free elections, on the other hand full security. And, by definition, there is a gap between the Israeli position and

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the Palestinian one. The art which is necessary is how to bridge over those gaps. Yesterday we were able to build some bridges which will enable the traffic of these agreements to cross them unhurt and reach the target. [end recording]

And I asked Shim'on Peres for his reaction to a statement by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' calling on Israel to speed up negotiations. This was his answer:

[Begin Peres recording] I appreciate very much the statement of the foreign minister of Syria that has expressed his view there is a need to accelerate the negotiations between Syria and ourselves. Israel is ready for a speedy process because we would like to reach full peace in the shortest possible time. [end recording]

And, asked by reporters about Italy's role in the Middle East peace process, this is what Foreign Ministers Agnelli and Peres had to say:

[Begin recording] [Agnelli] Well, I think that the role of Europe is, when the negotiation is terminated, Europe can come in and help on the financial side, and also helping to control the elections that will be called upon at a date that will be decided during the negotiations, and make sure that Europe will be there to control and see how the elections are kept.

[Peres] Well, Italy can act now in a double capacity. As an important member of the EU, Italy begins now its term as one of the troika, of the three foreign ministers, that will negotiate with the Middle East. Now, Europe will have two occasions to demonstrate its policies and tendencies. In the conference in Barcelona, an amount of $6.5 billion was allocated for investment in the Middle East — and I am not speaking about Israel, but I think it is a promise to many countries around. The philosophy that will guide this contribution will have a very important effect upon the future of the Middle East. We have also discussed with Mrs. Agnelli the need of combining governmental policies with private enterprises' initiatives so to help to build a new infrastructure in the Middle East itself.

Then, Italy is Italy. Italy is one of the most advanced economies. It is basically a country with a kind nature — nobody accuses Italy of any vicious feelings all the time — with a great constructive capacity, with an important wealth in the domain of culture and arts. A contribution of Italy, which is also a Mediterranean country, to the rebuilding of a new Middle East can be of enormous importance, and we hope that this will happen. [end recording]

On Mideast Peace Process, Ties With Italy

BR0607113495 Milan CORRIERE DELLA SERA in Italian 6 Jul 95 p 11

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres by Lorenzo Cremonesi; place and date not given: "Peres Endorses 'Arafat" — first three paragraphs are CORRIERE introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jerusalem — "The facts prove that the pessimists were wrong and the optimists right: 'Arafat is behaving better than many people predicted."

Shimon Peres endorses 'Arafat. Just 24 hours after the outline agreement reached with the Palestinian leader on the second phase of the peace agreements, the Israeli foreign minister wore a reassuring smile: "In three years we have succeeded in reaching peace with Jordan and making much progress with the Palestinians; I consider that an excellent result."

But his most favorable remarks were reserved for the PLO leader: "'Arafat has been able to make important decisions and to turn them into reality. Of course, he has displayed limitations and difficulties. But a year after his arrival in Gaza there are already the first signs of an imminent economic success."

[Cremonesi] Mr. Minister, it is three months since there were any serious attacks by the Islamic groups that oppose the peace process. How do you interpret this? Do you think that 'Arafat really has succeeded in controlling them?

[Peres] Yes, it seems to me that he and his men are much more active in forestalling the terrorists. My impression is that for the first time the Palestinian authority has seriously realized the need to control the extremists. If it continues this way, it will also accelerate the continuation of the negotiations. But it should also be acknowledged that the activists of the Islamic front too have realized that terrorism does not pay, that the Palestinian masses are opposed to the attacks. They realize, rather, that the path taken by 'Arafat is much more promising from the political viewpoint.

[Cremonesi] But only an outline agreement has been reached with 'Arafat. When do you really expect an agreement to be reached?

[Peres] We have agreed on the general principles, and on their basis we will finalize matters. The major problem for us remains security guarantees. We are willing to compromise on many things, but not on this point. July 25 has been set as the deadline for the signing ceremony. But nobody will die if it takes place a week or two late. Basically, even the agreement reached last year to introduce autonomy in Gaza and Jericho was portrayed

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by its enemies as a sure recipe for failure. But that has not happened, and the Israeli settlers' fears have proved unfounded. They can now circulate freely in Jericho and can even pray in their local synagogue.

[Cremonesi] Do you really think that the Palestinians will agree to have an election with a partial presence of Israeli troops?

[Peres] We will proceed according to the timetable. There will be an initial troop withdrawal from the most highly populated areas, followed by the elections, which I hope can be held before the end of the year. In the meantime we will establish special committees to examine the situation in Ramallah, Hebron, and Bethlehem. We are in any case agreed that the withdrawal will not be completed before mid-1997.

[Cremonesi] What role do you see for Italy?

[Peres] It will be crucial, partly because it is a member of the European troika. There are billions of dollars allocated by Europe to finance the peace process. I hope that Italian private companies can be involved too in investing in our region.

Likud To Fight Government West Bank Redeployment

TA0507160095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Likud faction has decided to set up an emergency headquarters to struggle against the government's decision to evacuate the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] from Judaea and Samaria. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that calls were made during the Likud faction's meeting for an uncompromising fight against the decision, to the point of demonstrations which will not abide fully by the law, as Knesset Member [MK] Ron Nahman defined it. MK Eliyahu Ben-Elisar proposed that Knesset debates be boycotted in protest against the government's activities. Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu emphasized that a violent struggle which runs counter to democratic rules must not be waged.

IDF, Shin Bet on 'Hurried Evacuation' in W. Bank

TA0207170495 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 2 Jul 95 p 2

[Report by Yosi Levi]

[FBIS Translated Text] The army was instructed to be prepared for a rapid evacuation of town centers in Samaria, at the shortest possible notice. "This could be a matter of months, weeks, or perhaps even days," a senior officer said yesterday.

The redeployment plan has undergone changes lately. A reference was made to "Janin first" initially, but reference is now made to exit from four Samaria towns: Janin, Nabulus, Qalqilyah, and Tulkarm. The latest assessment is that the pullback will take place in the early fall, perhaps in October-November.

It has been learned that senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and Shin Bet personnel are opposed to the hurried evacuation and to the way in which things are being planned. Under pressure of settler leaders in the territories, several of them recently approached the prime minister, warning of the security risks inherent in a hurried evacuation. "Exit from Ramallah, for instance, can be critical because of Bi'r Zayt University, which serves as a hothouse for Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members and terrorists," a senior Shin Bet person said. "Evacuating the area will cause loss of control over the situation at Bi'r Zayt."

A senior IDF officer added: "The IDF cannot leave town centers before completing the work of paving roads and preparing electricity and water infrastructures and before finding alternative sites. The problem of safeguarding Jewish settlements is also grave. The Gaza Strip format is not necessarily good for Judaea and Samaria since the settlers' population here is much larger and much more active."

The IDF and Shin Bet pointed to the problems involved in evacuating the towns of Qalqilyah and Tulkarm, which are located near the Green Line. "A hurried IDF exit may result in loss of control and an increase in the number of terrorist acts within the Green Line boundaries too," a senior officer warned, "especially since no solution has yet been found for safeguarding the line dividing Israel from the territories."

According to the same officer, there is also a problem with regard to the evacuation of Ramallah and Bethlehem, which are adjacent to Jerusalem, and a much worse problem with regard to Hebron, where the Jewish and Arab populations are mixed. Withdrawal from these towns is planned for the spring of 1996.

Rabin: No Golan Evacuation Before Referendum

TA0507154995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Members of Kibbutz Elrom on the Golan Heights say they have been assured by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin that no settlements will be evacuated until after a referendum on the issue. The promise was made at a meeting today between Rabin and members of Elrom, which has been mentioned as the first community due to be dismantled after an agreement with Syria.

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Poll Shows 'Significant Shift' on Golan Withdrawal

TA0207164795 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Jul 95 p B3

[Report on the "peace index," a project conducted by Tel Aviv University's Tami Steinmetz Center of Peace Research headed by Professor Efrayim Ya'ar, Dr. Tamar Herman, and Prof. Arye Nadler; data gathered via telephone poll by Modi'in Ezrahi among 502 people, constituting a "representative sample" of the adult Jewish population]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the last few days there has been a significant shift in Jewish public opinion in Israel in support of a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights in exchange for a full peace accord with Syria. At the same time, however, there is a growing demand that the future of the Golan Heights will be decided by the public via a national referendum, which should be held as soon as possible. These are the main findings of the June peace index. The survey also indicates stability in support for the Oslo accord (again some 49 percent) and an upward crawl of the comprehensive peace index (some 60 percent).

Many of the questions this month referred to the negotiations with Syria. While in May there was a clear majority (61.1 percent) in favor of continued control of the entire Golan, even if it means giving up a peace accord (compared to 32.1 percent who supported a full withdrawal in return for full peace when not given the choice of a partial withdrawal), in June the gap between the groups was significantly bridged: 50.2 percent were opposed to any withdrawal compared to 41.7 percent who are prepared for a withdrawal from the entire plateau in exchange for full peace.

There were prior signs of such a shift in the minor survey we held on 29 May immediately after the public declarations by the prime minister and foreign minister about Israel's readiness to consider a full withdrawal in return for normalizing relations with Syria. It is, of course, possible to explain that shift in the public's mood by its tendency to adapt its positions, even if with a time lag, to those of the decisionmakers. But, in view of the Israeli public's frank wariness toward the political leadership on the Syrian issue, that explains it only partially.

On the other hand, the assumption that the media play of the chief of staff's involvement in the Washington talks gives the public a feeling of security is apparently correct. To recall, in May we found that 65.6 percent believe that the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] view is most important in working out a stand on the Golan issue.

There is a most interesting finding if we match the answers to the questions about a withdrawal from the plateau (there were three choices to that answer: full withdrawal, partial, or no withdrawal) to those about what sort of agreement you think Israel and Syria will finally reach (the same choices in addition to the possibility that an agreement with Syria is not possible). It appears that 75 percent of those who support a full withdrawal believe that within the framework of the accord that will be finally reached with Syria, Israel will agree to a full withdrawal. On the other hand, among those who oppose any withdrawal, only 11 percent believe that an accord can be achieved without any withdrawal.

Who should make the final decision about whether to sign a full peace accord in a return for a full withdrawal? In the view of 5.8 percent of the respondents, it should be the prime minister, 9.5 percent believe it should be the entire cabinet, and 7 percent think it should be the Knesset. On the other hand, 76 percent believe that the public should decide via a national referendum (a rise of 17 percent compared to September 1994).

To the question of when should a national referendum be held, 45.9 percent said that it should be held as soon as possible and during the deliberating stage. Some 33.5 percent said that the proper date should be after Israel and Syria reach a prior understanding, but before they sign any document. Only 18.7 percent supported holding a referendum after the initial signing of the agreement, but before it is handed over to the Knesset for ratification.

The survey shows that together with increased support for a full withdrawal in return for full peace, there was a rise in the public's belief that Syria has a major influence over Hizballah activity and that that should be given expression during the negotiations (the survey was held three days after the katyusha attack on the Galilee).

Some 47 percent of the respondents claimed that the negotiations with Syria should be stopped until it forces Hizballah to stop attacks (compared to 26.2 percent in December), 25.7 percent recommended speeding up the negotiations because only a peace agreement will prevent Hizballah attacks (compared to 34.3 percent in December), and 24.5 percent claimed that the attacks should not influence the negotiations in any way (28.4 percent in December).

Another issue is Jerusalem and the Palestinians. As we found in the past, a decisive majority (70.8 percent) supports the position that even in a situation of full peace with the Palestinians, Jerusalem must remain united and the capital of Israel. Some 20.9 percent are prepared to transfer the Islamic holy places to a Muslim

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religious authority while only 7 percent are prepared to consider transferring part of East Jerusalem to the Palestinians.

But when the question was presented so that only the Jerusalem issue would prevent an accord with the Palestinians, only 46.4 percent of the respondents stuck to the position that Jerusalem must remain unified under Israeli sovereignty, while 35.3 percent agreed to Muslim control of the holy places, and 11.4 percent did not reject the possibility outright. In other words, there is a potential for compromise on control of the holy places, but there is a firm consensus against any compromise on control over Jerusalem.

Olmert Meets Rabin on Orient House Construction

TA0207142595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 2 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert said that over the past few days, Jerusalem municipal inspectors have once again discovered evidence of illegal construction at the Orient House. Olmert described this as a serious and brazen violation of the law since there was a similar incident not long ago, and the Palestinians ultimately complied and personally destroyed the illegal structures. Therefore, Olmert said, he had no intention of giving up this time and would use all the measures at his command to rectify the situation.

Olmert met this morning with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. The Jerusalem mayor said that there were no disagreements on any issue between himself and the prime minister. Olmert praised Rabin's positions and attitude toward the city's problems, including the matter of the Orient House.

At the meeting, the two men discussed the demarcation of the city's municipal borders, among other issues. The widespread phenomenon of illegal construction in the eastern part of the city was also discussed. Olmert was speaking to Qol Yisra'el.

Orient House Guards Held in Attack on Activist

TA0307182795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 3 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The police have arrested three security guards from the Orient House in order to find out which one of them attacked a right-wing activist taking photographs around the building this afternoon. Our police affairs correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that the security guard is also suspected of lightly injuring a border policeman who attempted to separate the scufflers. After the incident, the security guard fled into Orient House and was turned over to the police, together with two other guards, only following the intervention of Faysal al-Husayni. It is still unclear which of the three guards is the suspect.

Guards Released; Shahal on Building

TA0507164795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Three of the Orient House guards picked up after one of them attacked a right-wing activist and slightly injured a border policeman on Monday have been released on bail. Our correspondent reports that the police will recommend that an indictment be submitted against at least one of them.

The police minister sent Police Ministry representatives to the Orient House owners who made it clear to them that they should accept the Jerusalem municipality's demolition order. [as heard] Our correspondent Aviv Bushinky reports that Minister Shahal disclosed this at a meeting with Justice Minister David Liba'i and Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert. Minister Liba'i said he was waiting for the attorney general's opinion on the authority to close down the building if and when the need arises.

Sharp Rise in Jerusalem Arabs Seeking Citizenship

TA0607113695 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 6 Jul 95 p 2

[Report by Bill Hutman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The number of Jerusalem Arabs who are requesting Israeli citizenship has risen to unprecedented levels, according to an Interior Ministry report obtained by THE JERUSALEM POST.

Ministry officials said they believe the rise reflects the uncertainty among the residents of their political future.

The report said 687 Palestinian family heads in the city requested Israeli citizenship between Jan 1 and June 13, compared with 430 in all of 1994.

In 1992, there were 170 citizenship requests and in 1993, 260 such requests. Virtually all requests are granted. Ministry officials said an average of four family members obtain citizenship for each request by the head of the family.

The majority of Jerusalem's 160,000 Arabs are only Israeli residents, having yet to request citizenship, which provides them more rights, including a passport.

Yosef Tov, head of the ministry's population department, said the sharp rise in citizenship requests is one of the major reasons work is backed up a the ministry's eastern Jerusalem bureau.

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Al-Husayni, Israelis Sign Petition on Jerusalem

TA0407101395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] About 400 personages — writers, poets, lecturers, journalists, and movie industry people — signed a petition stating that Jerusalem belongs to everyone — to Israelis, to Palestinians, and to members of all faiths.

Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that the initiators of the petition convened a news conference this morning with the participation of Faysal al—Husayni, who also signed the petition.

Security Prisoners Stage 'Deluxe Hunger Strike'

TA0407094395 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Jul 95 p 2

[Report by Evelyn Gordon]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Many of the security prisoners now on hunger strike either began only a day or two ago or are eating every other day, Prisons Service Commissioner Arye Bibi told the Knesset Interior Committee yesterday.

Hundreds of Palestinians prisoners resumed a hunger strike for freedom after briefly suspending it as a goodwill gesture to peace negotiatiors, Palestinian activists said yesterday.

Bibi said that 1,465 of the country's security prisoners are now striking. However, he said, many of these joined in the past few days. When the strike began on June 18, only 400 to 500 prisoners participated.

In addition, he said, some were actually eating every other day.

"It seems, according to your description, that this is a deluxe hunger strike," commented committee chairman Yehoshua Matza (Likud). "It's a diet plan."

Bibi said none of the strikers had so far been in any medical danger, though 13 people had beed fed intravenously. The prison service has increased the number of nurses and medics in the participating prisons, however, and it is prepared to set up a field hospital if necessary, he said.

The strike, he stressed, is purely over the question of early release: There are no complaints being raised about food, family visits or any of the more usual pretexts.

In total, he said 4,832 security prisoners have been released since the Oslo Accords were signed, including those who would have been due for release anyway.

Bibi said he does not know if and when other prisoners will be released, but said the government has asked him for a list of those prisoners who are over 60 or chronically ill.

David Rudge adds;

Israeli Arab council leaders and thousands of municipal employees staged a 24-hour hunger strike yesterday in solidarity with the Palestinian security prisoners.

The hunger strike took place in council offices in Arab towns and villages throughout the country.

"The aim was to show solidarity with the 6,000 Palestinian prisoners still being held in jail and to press for their release under the terms of the Oslo Accord," said Husayn Suleiman, spokesman for the forum of Arab Council Heads.

"We fear that the peace process could be disrupted if the prisoners are not released because this is an important part of the process itself," said Suleiman, who is also head of Mash'had local council, near Nazareth.

Ministry Document Approves 'Arafat Performance

TA0207145595 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Jul 95 p A3

[Report by Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Text] "Reasonable success in view of the opening conditions and the expectations" — this is how the Foreign Ministry Political Research Center sums up the performance of the Palestinian Authority [PA] in Gaza and Jericho since the arrival of chairman 'Arafat in Gaza on 1 July 1994. The center analyzes the various aspects of the PA's performance, emphasizes 'Arafat's role, and criticizes other analysts — without naming them — who were mistaken in their early assessments of the Palestinian self-rule.

Here are the main points of the document:

— 'Arafat and His Performance: 'Arafat's performance totally contradicts the early assessments on the process, which predicted he would leave Gaza shortly after he arrived instead of making it his permanent home. In practice, however, he has been acting as mayor and has managed to lead the Palestinian camp in a period of limited geographic and functional self-rule.

— Domestic Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat had considerable success in dealing with the opposition elements on the ground, including the Islamic opposition. Only in the last few months has he "removed his kid gloves." 'Arafat acts on the divide and rule principle, holding the

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reins tightly in his hands while trying to locate pragmatic elements within the opposition. This process has still not ended.

— Internal-External Relations: 'Arafat has been successful in creating a balance between internal and external forces, as expressed in several spheres, including security. The way he has met this challenge will be reflected in the elections, in which, according to assessments, the internal forces will become stronger at the expense of the external.

— PLO-Fatah Relations: The move to Gaza, with the PLO serving as the umbrella movement, constitutes a historic change in the organization's history. We are in the midst of a process marking the end of its function. There is an ongoing process of erosion in the PLO's status, while the PA's position is becoming stronger.

— Problems: The economic issue is the central problem. There have been exaggerated and irrational expectations for an improvement in the conditions of individuals. Although there are difficult objective conditions, the called-for professional and practical moves were not implemented. The efforts to attract Palestinian capital from the diaspora to the autonomy have failed, and contrary to the situation that existed during Israeli rule, now there is a clear address for accusations and culpability — 'Arafat.

— The Public Mood: There is a feeling that the situation has quickly become similar to other Arab states. There is skepticism in view of the economic situation, the lack of democracy, and an inflated bureaucratic apparatus.

— Foreign Relations: Despite bans and restrictions, 'Arafat has managed to create a positive impression, both by means of travel abroad and by playing host in the PA territory. 'Arafat's trips abroad have taken a different character; they no longer amount to propaganda campaigns, but rather are businesslike visits. His relations with the Arab world, however, have not improved.

— The Political Situation: Despite the fact that the PA is not in control of the West Bank, 'Arafat has managed to impose his authority and to create a feeling he is in control, partly by means of the transfer of powers, and partly by means of Jibril al-Rujub's preventive security activity. The PLO has managed to push Jordan from the waqf in the West Bank and to a large measure also in Jerusalem.

— Conclusion: The first year since 'Arafat's entrance to Gaza can be summed up as a relative success in relation to the initial conditions and the expectations. The economic issue is the most problematic, despite the positive signs seen over the last few weeks. Upon the beginning of the second year of the PA's activity, much depends on the interim agreement and on the way daily challenges are met. 'Arafat is the most dominant and vital person. Despite the complaints about his performance, there is no replacement for him in the PA.

Senior Officers Suspected of Leaking IDF Paper

TA0207142395 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Jul 95 p A5

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In addition to the document exposed by Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu, three other IDF [Israel Defense Forces] documents have been leaked to the media. This was reported to Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq upon his return to Israel from the United States last Friday.

A senior officer involved in the investigation on the leaks said that the IDF has issued a directive requiring officers to sign for any document they receive relating to the negotiations with Syria, and once again upon its return. The officer said that henceforth great care will be taken not to hand out documents dealing with Syria to many officers.

The officer also said that the chief of staff has ordered to invest all necessary efforts and means to locate the person responsible for leaking the documents.

He claims it is not clear whether the documents were leaked by military personnel or by civilian elements who were also in the possession of the documents, such as the Prime Minister's Office officials.

It has been learned that three senior officers are suspected of leaking the document to the Likud chairman, and the senior officer says they may be requested to undergo a lie detector test. [passage omitted]

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King Husayn Discusses Talks With Chirac

JN0307192095 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Jul 95

[Passages within slantlines in English]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency French President Jacques Chirac held a working meeting at the Elysee Palace this afternoon. His excellency the French president led those who received his majesty the king upon his arrival at the Elysee Palace after he was greeted by the honor guard and musical band.

The two leaders discussed the developments in the peace process on all tracks, friendly bilateral relations, and a number of issues of common interest. The French president informed his majesty the king of the stands and developments expressed by the European leaders in their recent meeting concerning the political and diplomatic support for the peace efforts in the Middle East. The European summit had decided to extend aid of $61 billion, over the next five years, to their 12 partners in the Mediterranean basin, including Jordan.

The Jordanian-French summit also discussed the latest developments in the peace process and the political, regional, and international issues of common interest, including France's participation in the Amman economic summit.

The Elysee spokesman reaffirmed that the Husayn-Chirac talks were cordial, adding that they reflected the atmosphere of friendship which prevails Jordanian-French relations. The French president noted the importance of the Mediterranean countries conference which will convene in Barcelona next fall.

Following his meeting with Chirac, His Majesty King Husayn spoke to journalists in the Elysee courtyard:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] What were the topics of the talks?

[Husayn, laughing] Everything.

[Correspondent] What is the outcome of the talks with the French president? Did the talks deal with the obstacles on the Palestinian track?

[Husayn] In fact, this is my first chance to visit Paris and meet with an old, dear friend whom I greatly respect, President Chirac, in light of the distinguished relations between the two countries which have grown over long years. This meeting gave us the opportunity to discuss with the brother president all issues relevant to the region, as well as our joint aspirations for bilateral cooperation. Since we are neighbors, we pin hope on the European role in promoting future cooperation in all areas and in the coming stages.

[Correspondent] Your majesty, did you discuss the Egyptian-Sudanese tension?

[Husayn] The talks were comprehensive.

[Correspondent] Did you discuss Iraq?

[Husayn] Regarding Iraq, you know my stand on this issue. I call for tackling this situation in a way that will end the suffering of the fraternal Iraqi people which has lasted for a long period of time. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] /And on your talks with President Chirac on relations between the Kingdom of Jordan and France, please?/

[Husayn] /Excellent, sir. They are very, very special these relations. They have been for a long period of time. I have the privilege of coming to Paris. I have seized the first opportunity to do so, to meet an old and dear friend, and to congratulate him on the confidence of the people of France, and to wish him all the best. And I hope that we will have the privilege and honor of receiving him in Jordan with Madame Chirac before too long./

[Correspondent] What about the Amman economic conference?

[Husayn] Preparations for the Amman economic summit are continuous, and God willing, there will be large French and European participation in this conference.

[Correspondent] /Your majesty, a few words about your personal assessment in so far as relations with Israel (?what has been achieved)?/

[Husayn] /I believe that so much ground has been covered. It is hard to believe that it is less than a year since the Washington Declaration. And far less in terms of the peace treaty that has been signed between our two countries, it is becoming and will continue to be peace between two people, the peace that is based on the solution of all the problems that are there between us. And already new realities have come into being. There is a new international border between our two countries. This is guarded by Jordanians and Israelis, without any foreign observers or forces. There is an air of confidence, and a determination to move ahead. Our problem regarding our water rights has been resolved in terms of Jordan and Israel. Obviously, these rights do not [word indistinct], and we in Jordan hope to seek from the other parties involved in this [word indistinct] dimension.

And I believe that with what we are doing, what we are achieving, at times one gets the impression that we are

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moving too fast, I believe we are not moving fast enough because this is something that has eluded us for so many years And it's about time we put our best efforts to create the right conditions, lasting conditions for peace and human dignity, and security for our peoples and for our generations to come. So, we are very, very happy with everything that is going on. There is the atmosphere, mutual respect, cooperation, and trust/

[Correspondent] /You have the feeling that the French are willing to lift the sanctions on Iraq, I mean, according to what the Ekeus report has come out with?/

[Husayn] /I believe that there is a reality in this world, and a growing one of people saying possibly enough is enough. I am not going to speak for our French friends. They can do that by themselves./

[Correspondent] /You did discuss this matter with President Chirac?/

[Husayn] /We discussed everything, sir. We discussed everything. Thank you very, very much indeed. Thank you very much./ [end recording]

Further on Husayn's Statements

JN0307173695 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 3 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His Majesty King Husayn has said that he discussed with French President Jacques Chirac all issues relevant to the region and the joint aspirations of Jordan and France. His majesty told journalists after the summit that it is inevitable that a formula be found in which Jerusalem will be a symbol and essence of cohesion and peace and the holy shrines in the city be for all the followers of the three monotheistic religions.

His majesty said there has been some adverse effect of the result of acts by those who are opposed to peace on both sides. The Hebron massacre and other terrible incidents that occurred have, unfortunately, adversely affected public opinion on both sides. His majesty added he feels, in fact, what should happen is that all should ensure that the peace camp, which is the overwhelming majority of people, has the final say to resolve all problems. Following is his majesty's statement:

[Begin Husayn recording, in progress] ...the recovery of Palestinian rights on all of the soil, which is the subject of question, and I hope that something will happen rather soon. I think that probably there has been some adverse effect of the result of acts by those who are opposed to peace on both side. The Hebron massacre, the other terrible incidents that occurred have, unfortunately adversely affected public opinion on both areas. But, on the other hand, I feel very strongly that, in fact, what should happen is that all should ensure that the peace camp, which is the overwhelming majority of people, has the final say and continues with serious dedication to resolve all problems and give people hope and confidence in a future, which is their right. [end recording]

Al-Kabariti Meets French Counterpart Charette

JN0407194495 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 4 Jul 95

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti said after talks in Paris that a Jordanian delegation will visit France soon to discuss Jordan's debts to Paris. Al-Kabariti held talks with his French counterpart, Herve de Charette, which came a day after the king's meeting with the French president.

Today's talks focused on preparations for Amman's forthcoming economic summit and Middle East issues, including the situation in Iraq. Al-Kabariti said he was briefed on the French position with respect to Iraq and explained Jordan's views on the issues, which see a need to ease the suffering of the Iraqi people as a result of the UN sanctions.

Meanwhile, during his talks with al-Kabariti, the French foreign minister said he was optimistic as regards Syria's peace talks with Israel. De Charette said France hopes the talks will produce positive results.

Mauritanian Minister Meets With Officials

JN0107180095 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir received Mohamed Salem Ould Lekhal, Mauritania's minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, at his office in the Prime Ministry this morning. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti.

Discussions dealt with bilateral fraternal relations and ways of bolstering and developing them in various fields, in addition to a number of Arab, regional, and international issues.

The prime minister emphasized the strength of relations between Jordan and Mauritania, and the respect Jordan has for Mauritanian leadership, government, and people. He said Jordan is concerned with anything that strengthens bilateral relations, adding that Jordan puts all Jordanian expertise and capabilities at the disposal of Mauritania.

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He emphasized that Jordan is committed to comprehensive and just peace in the region, and emphasized the need to realize justice and comprehensiveness on all tracks in order to ensure the continuation of peace and reaching its fruits so that this will be positively reflected on the future generations, and these generations will protect this peace.

On his part, Lekhal conveyed the wishes of his excellency the Mauritanian president and prime minister, and stressed the depth of fraternal bilateral relations in all fields. He spoke about Mauritania's firm position on peace efforts in the region, and its support for the countries that followed the path of peace in order to realize security, stability, and development for their peoples.

Lekhal stressed the need to clear Arab atmosphere in order to restore cohesion to these relations in the interest of the Arab nation and in order realize the aspirations of its peoples.

During the meeting between al-Kabariti and Lekhal, talks dealt with bilateral relations and ways of bolstering them, and reaching specific mechanisms through which preparations will be made for the signing of several bilateral agreements and cooperation protocols in the commercial, economic, and cultural fields during the visit al-Kabariti is expected to pay to Mauritania after the guest minister officially invited him to visit Mauritania.

The two ministers discussed a number of Arab, regional, and international issues of mutual interest, and reviewed the various aspects of the peace process. They expressed the two countries' support for peace efforts that are made on all tracks, especially on the Syrian-Israeli and Palestinian-Israeli tracks, and said their views on them are identical.

Editorial Urges U.S. To Begin Talks With Iraq

JN0507122695 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5 Jul 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Wanted — a New Look"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] We agree with French President Jacques Chirac that Iraq must abide by UN resolutions before the sanctions, imposed on it after its invasion of Kuwait in 1990, are lifted. But that should be the case without any additional conditions that are not originally included in the UN resolutions.

As His Majesty King Husayn said Monday in Paris there is a growing movement to see an end to the suffering of the Iraqi people. Apart from the U.S. and Britain, which insist on a change in the Iraqi leadership, the remaining Security Council members—France, China and Russia—have been showing signs that they are willing to ease if not end the sanctions.

The efforts of the three culminated in an offer early this year that Iraq rejected out of fear that the arrangement might turn into a permanent one.

Now that the chairman of the UN Special Commission on Iraq, Rolf Ekeus, is saying that Iraq has cooperated with his mission on the remaining outstanding issues related to arms control, the community of nations is obliged to once again consider the lifting of the sanctions.

Since all efforts to change the Iraqi regime have so far failed, leading only to increased hardships for the Iraqi people, the only sensible approach left to end this crisis is to start a genuine dialogue with that leadership. Once the leader of the coalition against Iraq, the U.S., starts talking to the Iraqi leadership, abandoning its declared aim of toppling the Baghdad regime, all outstanding issues could be discussed and resolved. Baghdad has made a number of pronouncements during the past few years that indicate its willingness to join the emerging new order in the Middle East and its eagerness to liberalise its political system.

Besieged and boycotted by almost all nations on earth, the only way Baghdad is expected to react is through entrenchment. Once the walls around it start to fall, its leadership will acquire the comfort and courage that would enable it to afford to step down from its hostile posture. And if the Iraqi leadership did just that, it would be an added asset to the region's fragile stability and security.

Newspapers Bemoan Israeli-Palestinian Talk Delays

JN0307075495

[FBIS Editorial Report] Amman AL-RA'Y and AL-ASWAQ in Arabic on 3 July comment on the failure to reach an agreement in the Palestinian-Israeli talks in light of the 17 July deadline.

The independent, pro-government AL-RA'Y, in an approximately 400-word editorial on page 1 entitled "17 July, Date of Aspired Agreement," says that "another round of talks between the Palestinian and Israeli sides failed to reach an agreement on the redeployment of the occupation forces to enable the Palestinian Authority to hold elections, which are viewed by all standards as the most important step for giving popular legitimacy to this authority."

After noting that the two sides agreed to resume talks on an agreement, which they should reach before mid-July in order to meet the 17 July date set by the

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United States for signing the agreement in Washington, the paper says the Israeli insistence on security issues to "violate" the deadlines that had been agreed upon further aggravates the "frustration" of the Palestinians and "exasperates tension in the Palestinian streets" as a result of continuing the occupation and preventing Palestinians from electing the authority that represents them.

On the impact of the failure to reach an agreement on the implementation of the Oslo agreement, the newspaper adds: "This means that the other negotiation tracks will suffer much disappointment and their crises will continue for a long time, and this will curb the strong momentum of the peace process."

AL-RA'Y concludes that "what is taking place on the Palestinian track in particular and on other tracks as well emphasizes the need for the U.S. sponsor to act in order to overcome the obstacles before the U.S. and Israeli elections, which are the focus of attention of all political forces in the two countries and which will delay all files for the future until the new situation in the two countries becomes stable. Probably, fixing 17 July as a date for signing the Palestinian-Israeli agreement would pressure the two sides to resolve pending issues and is a clear and specific signal to both parties on the need to reach the aspired agreement."

The independent, moderate AL-ASWAQ on page 19 in its approximately 500-word editorial entitled "Israeli Obstacles and Fears and Their Damage to Peace and Cooperation Strategy," on page 19, says: "Apparently, the last-minute obstacles the redeployment negotiations faced between the Palestinian and Israeli sides, which delayed the Israeli withdrawal from parts of the West Bank for several days, are obstacles related to Israeli fears and the usual procrastination approach, more than the principle of withdrawal itself."

It notes that since the beginning of the peace process at the Madrid conference, the Israeli Government and opposition have known that "the process of correcting things and returning rights to their owners has begun, and that the international community, led by the United States, is determined to support the process of moving the region from instability and the state of no-war and no-peace to the stage of security, stability, and regional cooperation on the basis of comprehensive peace that includes a final solution to the Palestine question."

The paper urges the Israeli authorities to deal with the subject of Palestinian prisoners by freeing these prisoners without delay "as one of the immediate demands that should be met if Israel wants to support the pro-peace camp."

AL-ASWAQ warns that "any Israeli delay in responding to the Palestinian and Arab strategy of reaching peace through negotiations, will be a costly waste of time for all peoples of the region, including the Israeli people."

It concludes by saying: "Any delay in the negotiations toward reaching their objectives of justice and comprehensiveness does not serve anyone, and prolongs the suffering of the Palestinian people in particular," adding that this "suffering" will lead to "difficulties in implementing the ideas and concepts of regional cooperation which is basically based on the conviction of the peoples of the feasibility of this cooperation and their acceptance of this cooperation out of their conviction."

Columnist Urges Government To Slow Normalization

JN0607125295 Amman THE STAR in English 6-15 Jul 95 p 2

[From the "Jordanian Papers" column by Marwan al-Asmar: "The Ostrich Approach"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The removal of the Boycott Law from the statute books, a measure increasingly likely to be adopted by parliament, is yet another attempt of forcing normalization down the throats of the ordinary folk. No longer content with the Jordan-Israel peace treaty, an accord that implies de facto removal of the boycott law and the establishment of fraternal bilateral relations with Israel, the government is hell-bent on removing every last inch of what it regards as a bygone age.

But such a move has greatly offended local feelings, however submerged they may be. The government now not only has the opposition forces to contend with, but a great number of its' own supporters as well. The recent resignation of Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din from his post at the prime ministry was seen as a protest against the governments' handling of what has come to be termed as the new pace era. But many government supporters and indeed advocates of the peace treaty are now urging the administration to stop, think and slow down the normalization process.

It is feared that the government is giving too much away, too quickly and as a result, is surely losing its' bargaining chips with the Israelis. They are still too many questions that are left unsolved. Gaining our rights in territory and water should not be enough. The questions of refugees, economy and regional stability and the issue of Jeruslaem should still be high on the agenda.

The government simply can't bury its' head in the sand like an ostrich. It must adopt a caring approach

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to the internal and external scenes. In that respect its body language is essential. What is happening in the still Occupied Territories, Syria, and Lebanon is very important. Jordan's role is crucial.

If it is seen to soften then it would surely affect the standpoint of our negotiating partners. What is going to happen on the Syrian-Israeli tract with respect to the Golan Heights will affect us strategically. That is why we still have to stand steadfast and hold on to our last remaining bargaining chip: normalization with Israel. This is what they desperately need. We must not give up that easily. After all, Egypt didn't.

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Syria's Al-Shar' Speaks After Beirut Talks

NC0407170895 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1614 GMT 4 Jul 95

[News conference by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' with unidentified correspondents following his meeting with Lebanese leaders at B'abda Presidential Palace on 4 July — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Al-Shar'] I conveyed a message to His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi from his brother His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad dealing with the talks of the [Syrian and Israeli] chiefs of staff in Washington and Syria's assessment of these talks. Naturally, in the course of the conversation there was discussion of some issues of mutual interest.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, did the Washington security talks solidify the Syrian-Israeli security understanding that you have announced and in what way?

[Al-Shar'] Naturally, there was broad discussion in Washington between the two chiefs of staff over the principles and goals of the security arrangements, so that they can be put into practical effect. During these discussions, there was a review of the elements of these security arrangements, but no final agreement has been reached on these elements in general, though an extensive discussion was conducted on every one of these elements. The views got closer on one of the elements, while they remained distant on some others. But I can say in general that no agreement has been reached and that gaps still remain between the two sides regarding the security arrangements.

[Correspondent] Is the assessment positive, and what are the most outstanding elements?

[Al-Shar'] The most outstanding elements deal with the demilitarized zones and with reducing weapons. We had to determine the depth of these zones, but unfortunately no agreement has been reached on defining these zones, because of the Israeli side. The Syrian side was authorized to go into the details of this matter.

Another element is the early warning systems. Syria presented its viewpoint in this regard and the Israeli side presented its own viewpoint. I could say that the viewpoints are not too far apart, but no final agreement has been reached on this element either.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Al-Shar'] Though it dealt seriously with these issues during the Washington talks, the Israeli side, as usual, discussed each one of these elements without reaching a final agreement on any of them. The same thing has happened in the past regarding a number of elements in the peace agreement. You know that the peace agreement's provisions cover four areas. Each of these areas was discussed and great efforts were made to reach a final agreement on each of the provisions. But the Israeli side wanted or tried to move on to another point before we could reach a decision on any one point. We believe that, contrary to what it looks like abroad, the Israeli side is not quite ready, at least from the point of view of giving quick impetus to the peace process so we can reach a peace agreement. As for the Syrian side, it is serious and is advancing the process toward an agreement.

[Correspondent] The Washington talks coincided with an escalation in the south. Did south Lebanon have any role in these negotiations?

[Al-Shar'] The issue of south Lebanon is one aspect of the Israeli occupation of the south, but not the whole problem. Acts of violence end when occupation ceases. Hence, we cannot tackle this issue separately from the Israeli occupation of south Lebanon, the daily Israeli shelling of south Lebanon, and the reaction of the Lebanese resistance to what is happening in south Lebanon.

[Correspondent] Is it true that the next round of negotiations is waiting for [Dennis] Ross to tour the region?

[Al-Shar'] Ross will come to the region next week. The Washington talks will be followed up, especially the pending issues. Thank you.

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Commentary Views Ross' Upcoming Tour, U.S Efforts

JN0507142695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 5 Jul 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. diplomacy is preparing to resume its active move in the region through a new tour by Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the peace process. He will follow up the efforts aiming to lay down the bases required for leading this process to its desired goal. The wheels of the talks were set in motion again thanks to the U.S. efforts and to the sincere Syrian desire to achieve a just, comprehensive peace that ends wars and lays the foundations of a new phase of prosperity, relaxation, and stability as aspired by the peoples of the region.

During the recent military talks, the Israeli side showed some seriousness in dealing with some issues. However, it did not go so far as to respond to the requirements of the desired peace nor to all parties' security demands that ensure security and tranquility for all of them on an equal footing and that safeguard the peace intended to be established in this region. Had the Israelis abandoned their preconceived stands obstructing the peace efforts, the peace process would have achieved a major leap after the recent military talks. This is especially since Syria showed great cooperation during those talks and demanded nothing more than right and justice in security arrangements that safeguard its and others' security and that can lead the region to true peace.

The Israelis have been accustomed to jumping from one subject to another before arriving at an opinion or an understanding formula that can serve as a starting point toward an integrated understanding or a serious working formula for security arrangements. This has made it difficult to arrive at any points of agreement and shows that the Israeli side was apparently not authorized to take decisions, contrary to the Syrian side. Perhaps this is what made the talks remain confined to discussions and examination of ideas without achieving the results that the Americans and the Syrians wished to achieve.

It seems that the unfair Israeli demands posing a threat to Syrian sovereignty are still unchanged. This is in spite of the fact that Syria stressed and continues to stress its stand which is supported by the international community. This stand is based on the UN resolutions and calls for the removal of the occupation and the full restoration of the territory without compromising rights, circumventing laws, or excluding anything in them.

Syria has frequently stressed its adherence to a just, comprehensive peace. It stressed its readiness to meet the requirements of peace, but not at the expense of an iota of its national soil or at the expense of its dignity and sovereignty. As U.S. diplomacy resumes its move in the region, it knows the Syrian position well and has been closely acquainted with it. Senior U.S. officials have stressed the sincerity of the Syrian peace orientation. This, once again, throws on the shoulders of the United States the responsibility of pushing the Israeli side toward peace by convincing it of the need to meet the objective requirements of peace, led by full withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines as a first and major step that lays the foundation of a just, comprehensive, and durable peace.

Syria has always responded to international and particularly U.S. efforts. Looking forward to peace, Syria continues to respond to such efforts, deeming peace an irrevocable strategic option. When Israel follows suit, peace will prevail in the region and wars that have exhausted peoples for half a century will come to an end.

Press Welcomes Ross's Tour

JN0607075295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 6 Jul 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper AL-THAWRAH addresses the upcoming tour of the region by Dennis Ross, U.S. special Middle East coordinator, saying: Syria welcomes the U.S. efforts. It is willing to seriously cooperate with these efforts, and with all other efforts that could help advance the peace process. The entire world community is now well aware that Syria is firmly committed to its position, which stipulates that Israel must meet the objective requirements of peace. Syria seeks a just and comprehensive peace, which must uphold justice and fairness and allow the peoples of the region to build their future and that of their generations in a climate of assurance, security, and peace away from shows of hegemony and domination.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Everybody is fully aware that Syria has done its utmost to safeguard the credibility of the peace process. Moreover, it has done everything in its power to spare this process any crisis that could cause its failure and collapse.

The paper goes on to say: Syria's eagerness to safeguard the peace process is dictated by an eagerness to regain all its territory and rights. Syria adheres to its constant principles and positions. In the same vein, it cannot bargain over territory or abandon rights. It adheres to the peace process, and views it as a precious opportunity.

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The world community must make a concerted effort to create the propitious climate that would help make practical progress and eventually allow for the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace that would safeguard the rights, interests, and dignity of all sides. Hence, the conflict will remain intractable unless Israel changes its current views and officially, clearly, and unequivocally subscribes to complete withdrawal and parallel [mutawaziyah], equitable [mutakafi'ah], and equal [mutasawiyah] security arrangements, which must be set up on both sides of the 4 June 1967 borderlines.

For its part, the newspaper AL-BA'TH addresses the U.S. efforts to activate the peace process on the Syrian track of negotiations through the upcoming tour of the region by Dennis Ross, U.S. special Middle East coordinator, saying: This visit comes in the aftermath of the conclusion of the Washington talks and on the heels of a serious Israeli escalation in southern Lebanon. This escalation has reached the point of threatening an incursion and holding innocent civilians responsible for the Lebanese national resistance attacks. Any U.S. effort must aim to persuade Israel to implement the relevant international legitimacy resolutions.

Commenting on the Washington talks, the paper asserts that the Israeli negotiators have barely demonstrated even a token commitment to the peace process and its requirements, particularly with regard to security arrangements. It has been proven that these negotiators were not authorized to make decisions on the topics that came under consideration, including security arrangements, demilitarized zones, and early warning stations. By contrast, the Syrian side has seriously proposed practical solutions to these elements, advancing strong arguments, and showing commitment to the peace process as well as a desire to achieve a just and comprehensive peace.

The paper concludes by saying: If it seeks just, comprehensive, and durable peace, Israel has only to implement the relevant international legitimacy resolutions, which provide for withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

Press Notes Requirements for Progress in Peace

JN0607101795 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1745 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 6 Jul (SANA) — The newspaper AL-BA'TH issued here today criticizes Israel's recourse to floating media statements which appear to be in favor peace. It says that these statements, indeed, clash with the retreat, prevarication, and procrastination on the ground. It notes that this indicates that Israel is still far from responding to the requirements of the peace process.

In its editorial, the newspaper says: It has become common knowledge that prior to every new effort launched by the U.S. diplomacy, or any other party, to prod the stalled peace process, Israel resorts to escalating its aggression against southern Lebanon and its safe villages.

The newspaper voices amazement at Israel's appeal to disarm the resistance. It says: Such a thing has never been known in history. How does the occupier permit himself to call for subservience and submission to its occupation and aggression?

Concluding, the paper says: If Israel really seeks a just and comprehensive peace then it must abide by the components of the peace initiative, and if it wants a halt to the Lebanese national resistance, then it must implement Resolution 425 unconditionally. In short, this is what is required from Israel to realize stability and security in the region.

In its commentary today, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says that the required progress in the peace process cannot be verbal progress or mere wishes. The paper emphasizes that there are two main keys to peace; namely, full withdrawal and balance [tawazun], equality [tasawi], and equitability [takafu'] in security arrangements.

The newspaper warns that Israel will be deluded if it thinks it can propose one thing and implement something else when it comes to full withdrawal to 4 June 1967 lines and the security arrangements. It notes that security arrangements can never be accepted if they favor one party at the expense of the other and if they realize some of Israel's objectives of maintaining occupation of part of the Golan, no matter how small, or violating Syria's dignity or sovereignty.

The paper stresses that acceptance of these facts will be a practical start to achieving progress in the peace process.

Concluding its commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: Peace is an indivisible whole. The road to peace has become clear and its requirements even clearer. The ball has been and continues to be in the Israeli court which is plagued by confusion resulting from contradictions which are detrimental to the peace process.

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Progress in Talks Hinges on Israel

JN0307082995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 3 Jul 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its commentary today, the newspaper AL-BA'TH writes on the importance of Syria's role in the peace process. It stresses that Syria has been given priority in international deliberations due to President Hafiz al-Asad's wisdom which turned Syria into a country that provides security and protection for those seeking them as well as love and friendship to those extending a sincere hand to this country.

The paper adds: Thus, Syria's voice is loud and its opinion is relied on. This is because Syria has a regional weight which no one can belittle, and a role which no one can ignore.

AL-BA'TH notes: Syria's loud voice has made it refuse to negotiate in darkness, and encouraged it to adhere to its viewpoint and rights. Syria has always adhered to its rights. This has made those who negotiate with Syria admit that it has been sincere to its principles since the beginning of the peace process at the Madrid conference.

The paper says: Because peace is an objective and an end, Syria negotiates from a principled and sincere position. It also negotiates from a position to which it is entitled as a result of defending pan-Arab rights, not only its rights. This is why Syria adheres to comprehensiveness and not to the narrow limits of peace, especially because lasting peace should restore rights to their owners.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: This is Syria's stand which made its voice loud and clear, and made the world admit its sincerity. Based on this, it is not strange for the Arab press to cite Syria's sincere pan-Arab stands, and for those who negotiate with us admit that we adhere to our firm stands.

In its commentary, the newspaper TISHRIN writes on the military talks which were held in Washington, and in which Israel admitted they were objective and serious despite the continuation of gaps in both sides' stands.

The paper says: The Syrian side, as the Americans who participated in the talks admitted, was very serious and objective, and it did not propose anything other than what is just and right, contrary to Israel which revoked the agreed upon principle of equitability [takafu'] regarding security arrangements, and tried to obtain some privileges which, if approved, will disrupt Syria's security.

TISHRIN adds: It is known that Syria has two major conditions. These are Israel's full withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines and equal [mutasawiyah] and even [muta'adilah] security arrangements.

The paper says: Any progress in the peace process does not hinge on Syria, as some Israeli officials claim, but on Israel and the extent of its response to the UN Security Council resolutions, the bases of the Madrid conference, the charters of the international community, and the observed principles of right and justice.

TISHRIN notes: Since it has a huge arsenal of conventional and other weapons, Israel's security demands are not justified at all. Despite this, and in order to advance the peace process, Syria agreed to discuss the issue of security arrangements, providing that they be equal and equitable, and do not disrupt its security. Israel should have responded to the principle of equitability, because Syria also has security fears, and the dissipation of these fears can be achieved through equal security arrangements.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Syria is sincere to the cause of peace, and very serious about achieving a just and comprehensive peace. However, the achievement of such a firm and entrenched peace depends on Israel's full withdrawal to the 4 June lines and its acceptance of the principle of the equitable security arrangements.

Israeli 'Intransigence' Blamed for Continued Gaps

JN0307155995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1132 GMT 3 Jul 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: When Israeli officials talk about the gaps that still exist between the Syrian and Israeli stands, they evade admitting that Israeli intransigence is responsible for the continuation of these gaps and failure to make steps toward achieving the desired peace. The Israelis are not satisfied with this evasion. Indeed, they are trying to hold Syria responsible at a time when the U.S. Administration and the entire international community realize that if it were not for Syria's flexibility and true desire to achieve peace, the peace process would not have started and continued for more than three and a half years.

Syria repeatedly rescued the peace process from collapse due to the continued Israeli stands and attacks and because of Israel's continuous rejection of UN resolutions and the bases of the peace process. Syria persists in and is concerned about achieving a just and comprehensive peace, which restores the territories and rights. The Syrian commitment to peace is originally based on

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Security Council resolutions stipulating the impermissibility of occupying the territories of others by force.

When Syria became involved in the peace process, its stand was clear and known. It is based on restoring every iota of Syria's national soil in the Golan as stipulated by related international resolutions. However, until now, Israel still wants to bypass these resolutions and wants to establish bases tailored to the objectives it wants to achieve from the peace process. This is despite the fact that Israel is already aware that Syria rejects these bases or demands because they encroach on its sovereignty and independence. Hence, how can obstacles be overcome and how can gaps be bridged as long as Israel wants to impose the Israeli peace on Syria, Lebanon, and all the Arabs?

The previous experience of deals between Israel and some Arab parties has proven the fragility of the peace they claim to have achieved. Syria does not want such deals that are liable to collapse at the very first test. Indeed, Syria wants to establish a durable and lasting peace — a peace that responds to our people's legitimate ambitions to restore their territories and rights, to live in peace, and to turn to building, prosperity, and stability after many years of wars and confrontations. This cannot be achieved without returning to the bases of the peace process, international resolutions, and the principle of justice and equality.

If Israel tries to achieve gains on the ground at the expense of Arab rights and at the expense of Syria's sovereignty and dignity, then this will neither happen now nor in the future. Here, we do not want to lend an air of pessimism over the talks and over the peace process as a whole. At the same time, however, the slight positive results that were achieved are not enough to draw an optimistic picture of the region's future. Optimism will only come after Israel decides to fully withdraw from the Golan and southern Lebanon because this withdrawal is the key to peace, stability, and prosperity in this region.

Official Talks With Germany's Kinkel Begin

JN0607061595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus—An official round of talks was held at the Foreign Ministry last night between the Syrian side headed by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the German side led by German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel. The meeting was attended on the Syrian side by Yusuf Shakkur, assistant foreign minister; Sulayman Haddad, Syrian ambassador to Germany; 'Abd-al-Hasib al-Ustuwani, head of the Western Europe Department; and Dr. Hani Habib, head of the Economic Department. For Germany, the meeting was attended by Thomas Troemel, German ambassador in Damascus; (Theodore Valloe), head of the Political Affairs Department at the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs; (Enrias von Hosleh), head of the Near Eastern Department; and (Michael Gerus), spokesman for the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The talks addressed the international and regional state of affairs and developments in the peace process. The talks also dealt with bilateral ties and the means to promote and enhance them in all areas, as well as Syrian-EU ties.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Klaus Kinkel had earlier held a closed meeting. The talks focused on Syrian-German ties as well as Syrian-EU ties and ways to promote and expand them. The talks will be resumed this morning to complete the discussion of topics under consideration.

A working session was held between the Syrian Arab side headed by Economy and Foreign Trade Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi and the German side accompanying German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel at the Prime Ministry at 2000 yesterday. The Syrian side to the talks included Dr. Muhammad Khalid al-Mahayini, finance minister, and Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahim Subay'i, minister of state for planning affairs. The German side to the talks included representatives of scores of important German firms.

Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi explained the policies Syria is pursuing to achieve sweeping and balanced social and economic development. He said that the economic pluralism policy directed by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad since the early seventies, which allows all citizens to take part in building the homeland, has allowed Syria to achieve economic development. Dr. al-'Imadi also spoke about the economic measures taken to buttress the national economy, underlining the importance of the investment climate created by Syria to attract national, Arab, and foreign capital. Furthermore, he noted the new economic developments experienced by the national economy, which are indicative of the sound course pursued by Syria. Additionally, he stressed the importance of promoting Syrian-German ties in the interest of the two countries and peoples.

During the meeting, the minister answered questions posed by members of the German economic delegation. The representatives of the German firms expressed their desire to promote economic cooperation ties between the two countries. Moreover, they underscored the need to explore the means that could help achieve this objective.

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India

Americans Among 7 Foreigners Kidnapped in Kashmir

BK0607032295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, militants have abducted seven foreign tourists from (Ledarve) area, 32 km from Pahalgam on Tuesday [4 July]. They have released three captives and a guide, who reported the matter to the Pahalgam police station. An official spokesman told AIR Jammu correspondent, Bhagwant Singh, this morning that a group of 15 armed militants, half of them appearing to be Pakistani mercenaries, have abducted the tourists. Among the captives are two Americans and two Britishers. The militant claiming to be members of (Al-Faram) outfit have demanded the release of an undisclosed number of militants, a majority of them being Pakistanis.

Meanwhile, adviser, Home, to Jammu and Kashmir governor, Lieutenant general D.D. Satlani, has described the kidnapping as an act of cowardice aimed at harassing tourists from friendly countries. He asked the abductors to realize the agony of their families and release the captives immediately.

Operation Launched To Rescue Tourists

BK0607090295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, a massive search operation has been launched to trace out the abducted foreign tourists in Pahalgam's (Ledarve) area. An official spokesman told our Jammu correspondent that the abducted foreign tourists have been identified as Mr. Paul Wells and Mr. Keith Manigan of the UK, Mr. John Donald and Mr. Donald Fred Hutchings of the United States. The three foreign tourists set free are Mrs. Paul Wells, Mrs. Keith Manigan, and a tourist from Canada. The released foreign tourists have disclosed that they were robbed of their money and other valuables by the militants.

Meanwhile, seven persons were injured when a rocket fired by Pakistani troops fell on a ward of the Medical College Hospital in the Punch city last night. One more rocket fell in the Shankar Mahalla of the city but caused no damage. Official sources say this is the fourth rocket attack by Pakistani troops on Punch in the last few days.

Pakistan Continues Firing in Kashmir Sector

BK0607090895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistani troops resorted to unprovoked firing for the third day today on laborers engaged in erecting barbed wire fencing at Simbal post in the Ranbirsinghpura sector in Jammu and Kashmir. The inspector general of BSF [Border Security Force], Mr. Surendra Singh, told AIR [All India Radio] Jammu correspondent that the Pakistani troops started firing shortly after the fencing work started this morning and continued firing for one and half hours. However, the work continued under the supervision of BSF. He said there was no casualty in the firing.

Committees Suggested To Fight Kashmir 'Militancy'

BK0507123595 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1430 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The minister of state in the Prime Minister's Office, Mr. Bhuvanesh Chaturvedi, has asked the Jammu and Kashmir government to set up citizens defense committee at district, village, and bloc levels to fight militancy effectively. He was addressing a meeting of senior officers of the state government in Jammu today. Mr. Chaturvedi also called for greater transparency in administration by involving the people in developmental programs.

Addressing a meeting of political leaders and citizens of Doda district yesterday, Mr. Chaturvedi said the Center [federal government] is committed to solving of the Kashmir issue democratically without using force. He urged the people of the state to rise above political consideration and work jointly for the normalization of the situation. Mr. Chaturvedi, who is heading a high-level central team, also visited some migrant camps in and around Jammu city. He said 30 crore rupees will be spent this year on providing relief to the migrants.

Farooq Abdullah, Government Officials Discuss Kashmir

BK0507065395 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, yesterday discussed the current situation in the state with a team of central government officials led by the minister of state in the prime minister's office, Mr. Bhuvanesh Chaturvedi. The discussions centred round the proposed elections to the state assembly.

Dr. Abdullah reiterated his demand to restore the internal autonomy of Jammu and Kashmir. Amongst other things, the financial package and release of innocent people were also impressed upon by Dr. Abdullah.

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Editorial Considers Implications of Karachi Situation

BK0607091995 Delhi BUSINESS STANDARD in English 4 Jul 95 p 11

[Editorial: "Karachi Concerns"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The increasing tempo of violence in Karachi, while not a matter of immediate or direct concern to India, should not be grounds for rejoicing either. In the atmosphere of tension and mutual suspicion that clouds Indo-Pak relations, the stability of governments and societies is the best guarantee against political and military adventurism. Unfortunately, Benazir Bhutto seems unable to get a firm handle on the worsening crisis in Karachi. Soon after the meeting of the OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference], she claimed that the "law and order situation in the city has improved". In reality, more people have died so far this year than in the whole of the preceding year. Life in Karachi has been seriously affected. Earlier in March, when the leaders of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) had pressed the government to act, it dismissed the FPCCI's office-bearers. It placed their names on the Exit Control List and prevented the FPCCI president from flying to Singapore. The Karachi Stock Exchange index has fallen from above 2000 in early January to below 1500 in mid-May. It will be difficult to attract foreign investment under such conditions.

One of the immediate factors blocking an avenue for halting the violence seems to be the reluctance of the government to hold talks with the Muhajir leader, Altaf Hussain. Ms Bhutto seems to be pinning her hopes instead on breaking Mr Hussain's power base by supporting the Muhajir movement's rival Haqiqi faction, which allegedly enjoys the support of the Pakistani intelligence agencies. Not surprisingly, after the Pakistani army was withdrawn from Karachi after Operation Cleanup, the popularity of the Haqiqi faction has nose-dived and it can contribute little towards restoring peace. Moreover, Ms Bhutto has chosen to question the patriotism and loyalty of the Muhajirs, the people - and their forebears - who migrated to Pakistan at the time of partition and helped establish that new state.

Over the years the Muhajirs have been discriminated against in education and employment. Political power lies to the north, in Pakistani Punjab. As a commentator observed, the Muhajirs think they founded Pakistan, while the Punjabis think they own it. Although immigration into Karachi has ensured its steady expansion, there has been little economic growth, leading to the inevitable shortage of economic opportunities. The city has also become a combustion chamber because of the inflow of weapons and drug money. None of this, or the continuing violence, will encourage investment and offer new employment opportunities to the Muhajirs. Given the hard-line position taken by the government, it is not clear how the crisis will play itself out. So far the Pakistani army has chosen to remain an observer, although a recent poll showed that respondents were evenly divided on the re-entry of the army into Sindh.

In the short run, the continuing crisis in Karachi may divert the Pakistani government's attention from Kashmir and this may be seen by India as a blessing. But that would be a short-sighted approach. In the poll mentioned earlier, while nearly three-fourths of the respondents did not think that the government is capable of dealing with the situation, about two-thirds felt that Indian-trained terrorists were responsible for the state of affairs in Karachi. This is a view assiduously propagated by the Pakistani government. In the event of a serious deterioration in the situation, the Pakistani government will probably attempt to contrive some external crisis that can be used to mobilise patriotism to sideline the Muhajir crisis. That is the last thing India needs.

Allegations on PRC Missiles for Pakistan Viewed

BK0507081995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 4 Jul 95

[Commentary by C. Uday Bhaskar]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The disclosure in the WASHINGTON POST by American intelligence officials confirming supply of the M-11 medium-range ballistic missiles by China to Pakistan has aroused considerable interest. Satellite and human intelligence reports establish that Pakistan received these 500-kilogram warhead-carrying missiles in November 1992. Range of these missiles is 300 kilometers. While it is significant that such a disclosure is being made by an American intelligence source, the fact of the matter is that the supply of these missiles to Pakistan has been common knowledge since late 1991.

It may be recalled that transfer of such missile is prohibited by the USA under the MTCR, the Missile Technology Control Regime. Report of the M-11 missile transfer was first reported in early 1991 and subsequently U.S. intelligence sources indicated that satellite evidence confirmed such shipment. Subsequently, the U.S. invoked the MTCR strictures and imposed sanctions on China and Pakistan. These sanctions were lifted in the case of China in the following year when Beijing agreed to become an adherent to the MTCR. In Pakistan's case, the sanctions lapsed in June 1993.

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In this situation, prudence demanded that Indian security planning take such a capability in the neighborhood into account. Thus the Indian missile program consolidated its expertise and proved its technological credentials with the successful launch of the Prithvi, a totally Indian effort. This has been repeatedly suggested by U.S. interlocutors that India ought to defer the deployment of the Prithvi. Till now, the supply of the M-11 was (?obfuscated) by the current disclosure in the WASHINGTON POST, which will make it difficult for the USA to deny such a development. [sentence as heard] Whether this will lead to the imposition of sanctions against China by Washington is (?moot) for currently Sino-U.S. ties. [sentence as heard] For India, the M-11 in the Pakistani inventory is a reality but goes back to 1991. The U.S. Administration took a long time to acknowledge the clandestine Pakistani nuclear weapon program. It remains to be seen how the U.S. Administration will react to the present disclosures by its own intelligence officials.

U.S.-Built Waste Plant Blamed for Nuclear Leak

MS0407124695 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 4 Jul 95 p 13

[Report by Rahul Bedi: "Indian Nuclear Plant Leak Hits Villages' Water"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi — Radioactive waste from an atomic power plant near Bombay has contaminated the water supply of around 3,000 villagers living nearby.

And though the Tarapur atomic power station was shut down on April 15, after the leak was discovered from its waste immobilisation; plant, radioactive water had already been seeping into the ground for at least 45 days, officials admitted.

The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board, however decided not to publicise the accident, but it was reported by a local newspaper yesterday.

Neither did it contact residents of nearby Ghivali village and warn them about the dangers of drinking contaminated water.

Dr A Gopalakrishnan, the board's chairman, said the leak was due to faulty pipe joints in the power station's water decontamination plant. This had led to contaminated water spilling into a drain.

"It is an error and the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board's safety committee is examining it," he said.

He blamed the accident on faulty planning and design of the American-built waste plant, which was commissioned last year.

He claimed that any radiation leak would have been absorbed by the earth and could not have contaminated the ground water in the neighbourhood.

But to allay the fears of the villagers, engineers scooped up 3.5 tons of debris from the drain and stored it in the plant.

Residents of Ghivali, meanwhile, blame contaminated water for the death of about 20 cows, dogs and chickens in recent weeks and fear the worst as they have been drinking it too.

They also fear that the radioactive waste will further affect their water supply by seeping deeper into the ground during the prevailing monsoon rains.

The Tarapur plant almost ran out of fuel last year when France and America stopped supplying enriched uranium.

They want India to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and fear it is capable of producing nuclear weapons.

But New Delhi says the treaty is discriminatory and instead wants a universal test ban. India purchased the fuel from China.

India exploded a nuclear device in 1974 but, ever since, has maintained it did so merely to research nuclear energy and had no intentions of building nuclear weapons.

The country's nuclear facilities include 10 power stations, four research reactors, six heavy water plants and several related facilities.

According to a recent parliamentary report, 147 mishaps or "safety related unusual occurrences" were reported from Indian atomic energy plants three years ago.

Of these, 28 incidents occurred in nine of the 10 nuclear power stations but Atomic Energy officials said none was serious.

However, five of these, including a fire at the Narora plant in north India, led to reactor shutdowns.

Another resulted in a scientist's death after exposure to poisonous gas at the heavy water plant in Andhra Pradesh in October 1992.

U.S. Said To Maintain Interest in Power Sector

BK0507034195 Madras BUSINESS LINE in English 29 Jun 95 p 5

[Report by Ashok Dasgupta]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Despite the dark clouds over the fate of Enron's Dabhol power project in Maharashtra, the interest of US independent power producers in

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India does not appear to have waned. But the fact remains that all of them would like to wait and watch till the Enron issue is finally resolved by the Shiv Sena-BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] government, as promised, by the first week of July. However, as to whether the American power producers' interest in India is finally translated into firm investment decisions would depend on which way the Maharashtra government's decision goes.

Officials who were a part of the Minister for Power, Mr. N. K. P. Salve's entourage to the US, the UK and Hong Kong say the Enron controversy has resulted in a renewed interest in India as a country for investment, perhaps because of the simple fact that the whole issue has kept the power sector in the news. Moreover, the debates and discussions over the subject in the media have also brought home the point that like the US, India is also a vibrant democracy and, for all policy issues, the people have to be taken into confidence.

The Ministry officials refuted suggestions that the power delegation's US visit was nothing much to write home about. On the contrary, they pointed out that the discussions at all fora were very fruitful and successful.

However, they admitted that unlike the Minister's earlier visits, when the power producers interested in coming to India could be named, this time it is not so. This, they explained, is for the simple reason that the system of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) being signed between the power producers and the State authorities has been disbanded and all fresh projects beyond the 195 already listed are to be decided on the basis of competitive bidding.

Despite this, a number of power producers are planning to come into the country through the "back-door" route of signing MoUs with the prospective Indian promoters who have already signed up for projects. Out of the 195 expressions of interest for the projects, more than 65 per cent have been allotted to Indian promoters on the basis of MoUs. For want of funds, these promoters, sources said, are now entering into back-to-back agreements with the American power producers.

This, sources said, has to happen. For, if the private power development policy is to be finally successful after the initial hiccups, funds have to flow in from the US, given the capital intensity of power plants. The Indian promoters have merely bagged the projects and are now looking for foreign partners to actually see the projects through as all the domestic resources put together are just not good enough.

Substantial progress has also been made with regard to the 10,000 MW capacity planned to be set up by Mr. Gordon Wu in association with the PowerGrid Corporatian of which about 5,000 MW is to be located near Ib Valley in Orissa. Sources, however, refused to divulge any further details on this venture.

Dalai Lama Calls For World Support To Free Tibet

BK0607095295 Hong Kong AFP in English 0938 GMT 6 Jul 95

[By Pratap Chakravarty]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, July 6 (AFP) — The Dalai Lama, Tibet's spiritual leader, marked his 60th birthday on Thursday with an emotional call for international support for his non-violent campaign to free his Himalayan homeland from Chinese rule.

Speaking to some 2,000 people gathered here to celebrate his birthday, the Dalai Lama said he would continue to seek a "mutually acceptable" solution with China to what he described as a "struggle for national survival."

During a 25-minute speech punctuated by thunderous applause, the Dalai Lama, dressed in a monk's traditional maroon robes, said he was seeking to "protect my nation from the threat of extinction."

"I consider that my primary responsibility is to take whatever steps I must to save my people and their unique heritage from total annihilation," the 1989 Nobel Peace Prize winner told the audience overflowing a hotel ballroom.

Speaking in both Tibetan and English, the Dalai Lama said: "This is not a struggle to preserve old institutions. It is a struggle for national survival and the preservation of Tibetan culture.

"In endeavoring to protect my nation from the threat of extinction I have always sought to be guided by realism, moderation and patience," he said.

"I have pursued a course of non-violence and tried to find some mutually acceptable solution in the spirit of reconciliation and compromise so that the Tibetan people can resume life in peace and with dignity," he said.

"I appeal to all of you on this occasion to support the Tibetan people as human beings who are prevented from exercising the rights and freedoms that many of us take for granted," he said.

The Dalai Lama, who fled Tibet for exile in India in 1959 following a failed uprising against Chinese rule, also said he was "determined to live as long as possible" so he could continue his struggle for Tibet's freedom.

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"As a Tibetan and the Dalai Lama, I have a special responsibility towards Tibet and its people because the people of Tibet have placed so much trust and hope in me," he said. "I have a moral responsibility to speak up for them. "

The Dalai Lama, who heads a government-in-exile in the town of Dharamsala that is not recognised by any country, thanked India for sheltering him and more than 100,000 Tibetan refugees for the past 36 years.

Under the agreement allowing him to settle in India, the Dalai Lama is forbidden to engage in political activities on Indian soil and his speech appeared certain to spark an angry reaction from Beijing.

The Chinese ambassador to India, Pei Yuanying, said in an interview published by a local newspaper on Thursday that China "opposed political activity under the cover of birthday celebrations."

"Any plot designed to split the motherland and advocate independence of Tibet is bound to failure," the Chinese envoy told THE HINDUSTAN TIMES.

Birthday greetings were also read out at Thursday's ceremony, including messages from fellow Nobel laureate Nelson Mandela, Czech President Vaclav Havel and UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali.

The South African president said the Dalai Lama "combines kindness and compassion in a way which is unique."

Earlier Thursday, the Dalai Lama led a multi-denominational prayer meeting at the memorial here to Mahatma Gandhi, apostle of non-violence and Indian independence hero.

The prayer meeting was attended by hundreds of representatives of the Buddhist, Hindu, Moslem, Sikh, Christian, Jain and Parsi faiths.

Thousands of Tibetans wearing traditional dress also gathered for a glimpse of their "god-king," bowing their heads in reverence as he passed by and calling out, "Long Live the Dalai Lama."

The Dalai Lama was scheduled to attend a reception later Thursday to which some 1,000 people have been invited, including prominent academics, philosophers and scientists from around the world.

The Dalai Lama's 60th birthday has been celebrated here with three days of prayers and seminars on such subjects as "Non- Violence," "Inner and Outer Disciplines" and "Time and Transcendence."

The birthday celebrations have been organised by a committee chaired by Ranganath Misra, the head of India's National Human Rights Commission and a former chief justice of the supreme court.

The organisers have described the celebrations as a "non- political" event to avoid upsetting relations between New Delhi and Beijing, which insists that Tibet is an integral part of China.

Iran

IRNA: Norway 'Failed To Win Support' for Boycott

LD0607104195 Tehran IRNA in English 0846 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London, July 6, IRNA — The Norwegian Government has failed to win support for an economic boycott of Iran similar to the one maintained against South Africa, Norway's news agency NTB reported Wednesday [5 July].

NTB quoted the Foreign Ministry's Assistant Press Spokesman Kaare Eltervaag saying that its diplomats had explored several approaches and discussed the issue with a number of UN member countries without gaining any support.

The failure follows Norway saying on Monday that it was going to finally withdraw its ambassador from Tehran in what was reported to be an attempt to step up its political campaign as an apologist for apostate author Salman Rushdie.

It also comes after U.S. President Bill Clinton was only able to win support from Israel for a unilateral trade embargo against Iran that was announced at the World Jewish Congress, suggesting it was inspired by the Zionist lobby.

The Norwegian news agency said that foreign Minister Bjorn Tore Godal would not speculate as to why there was so little interest in a trade boycott.

It reported that Japan, Russia and the European Union, which Norway voted against joining, had previously made it clear that they will not go along with the trade boycott implemented by the U.S. last month.

The Norwegian Foreign Ministry has said that it will refrain from promoting trade with Iran, which is already virtually negligible and would also oppose new World Bank loans as well as Iran's admission to the Asian Development Bank.

At the heart of the dispute is the fatwa on Rushdie that has been misused as a state issue and as a pretext by certain governments over the past six years to limit political relations with Iran.

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Ongoing negotiations by the EU over the past three months have aimed at improving diplomatic and economic ties by trying to depoliticize the religious decree declared by the late Imam Khomeyni in 1989.

Embassy Denies Armenian Forces Training in Iran

NC0507181895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1630 GMT 4 Jul 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Baku issued a statement yesterday strongly refuting a TURAN report that Armenian military forces train in Iran. The embassy's revelation came after circles in Azerbaijan, including various media, made unfounded claims against Iran. Undoubtedly, the claims are aimed at harming bilateral relations. But they are unfounded and made for propaganda purposes. They can be described as being encouraged by foreign forces that want to harm the fraternal relations between Tehran and Baku. So TURAN's claim that the Armenian military forces train in Iran can be assessed within this context.

The Azerbaijani people have enjoyed Iran's political support and humanitarian aid since the beginning of the war between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Iran's support has been aimed at helping the sides end their dispute. Azerbaijani officials know of Iran's resolute stand against Armenia's aggression. They also know of the work Iran has carried out to help end the aggression against Azerbaijan. Undoubtedly, Iran's approach clearly shows that it wants security, peace, and tranquillity in the region.

Foreign forces want to strengthen insecurity by changing the conditions in the region. That is why they tried to exclude Iran from the cooperation on Azerbaijan's oil. But those who want to harm relations between Iran and Azerbaijan will fail. That has been outlined by President Geydar Aliyev.

U.S. Provocation on Azerbaijan Border Foreseen

NC0507093095 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 24 Jun 95 p 16

[Unattributed commentary: "The Repetition of Defeated Experiences in the Republic of Azerbaijan"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Iran is among those countries that has done its best to end the bloody crisis in Nagorno-Karabakh and has made it its major duty to establish tranquility in the region. But the poisonous propaganda and expansionist policies of America and Zionism have always tried to downplay Iran's role as the mentor of peace and stability in the region.

Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev, who came to power after overthrowing Abulfaz Elchibey, has apparently deemed it advisable to link his political life to the interests of America and Zionism, and to establish the type of security that he wants in the region by opening the way for American and Zionist companies.

Aliyev has enraged Azerbaijan's neighbors by signing an oil agreement in the Caspian Sea with a Western consortium without bearing in mind the Caspian Sea's legal status, and hoping that America and its allies can grant him what is needed by the Republic of Azerbaijan to continue its life in the region. But each day that passes shows how wrong this outlook is.

Apart from plundering the region's energy resources, America is trying to paint a picture of insecurity in the region and to resort to provocations near the Islamic Republic's borders in order to justify its possible military presence in the future. This is a dangerous game which will primarily harm regional countries. The signs of these wretched intentions should not be expected to be visible now. Such provocations are usually preceded by preliminary measures, the main tools and instruments of which are the dependent regional press and the American-Zionist propaganda machinery.

America's recent repeated defeats in its propaganda attacks on the Islamic Republic of Iran on the issue of nuclear reactors and the threat of terrorism, and the refusal by America's major allies to support the sanctions on Iran clearly showed that Iran's principled stands are very strong. And this is what makes the enemies of Iran try their luck in any way they can to make us kneel down. But they experience a new defeat every time.

It is not expecting too much if the Islamic Republic of Iran calls on its neighbors not to be fooled by the West's poisonous and baseless propaganda. The mass media in these countries can become a major instrument for the establishment of tranquility and stability inside and outside their borders, and not a mouthpiece for the full-fledged enemies of peace.

It is not necessary to remind these people that in parallel to offering its most sincere friendship to its neighbors, the Islamic Republic of Iran has always been able to strongly and decisively defend itself against any onslaught. The region still remembers the braveries scored by the children of Iran.

It is extreme shortsightedness for the mercenary press of neighboring countries to concoct lies, the only outcome of which will be to enrage a powerful country that has

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extremely serious, decisive, and principled stands on the security of its borders.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has never negated a healthy economic and political relationship and considers it the right of its neighbors to establish relations with any country they want to, as long as these relations are within the framework of their interests. But when the extent of such relationships spreads to create a feeling of insecurity in the region and on Iran's borders, the Islamic Republic of Iran should not be expected to remain silent vis-a-vis foreign molestation.

Contact Group Said Seeking Own Interests in Bosnia

LD0507174995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1530 GMT 5 Jul 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The personnel of the U.S. Air Force, under pretext of protecting the UN peacekeepers, arrived at Croatia's Split airport [on] Tuesday 4th July. In the opinion of political observers the formation of the French-British Rapid Reaction Force in Bosnia is a turning point in regional developments. The reason is that open rivalry among the members of the international contact group has assumed wider dimensions since the UN Security Council approved the dispatch of this force to Bosnia.

France and Britain, which until some time ago had threatened to pull their forces out of Bosnia, decided — in an overt political shift, posing to protect the UN peacekeepers — to bolster their military presence in Bosnia. Following this measure, the Bonn Government, too, which under the German Constitution was not allowed to deploy its troops outside its frontiers, took a legal bill to the country's parliament. After the bill was approved, Bonn issued an order on dispatching its forces to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Political experts, in assessing these developments which are taking place rapidly, believe that the measures of the German and U.S. Governments should be assessed in connection with the increasing British and French military presence in Bosnia. Apparently the dispatch of these troops is taking place under the pretext of protecting the UN peacekeeper. But it is hard for the analysts to accept the point that America will bear the cost of bolstering the British and French Rapid Reaction Force. At the same time, the fact should not be ignored that the U.S. Congress opposed the Americans' participation in meeting part of the financial expenses of the Rapid Reaction Force because the dispatch of such a force would increase French and British military presence in Bosnia. Even Madeleine Albright, permanent U.S. representative at the UN, had endorsed this policy.

Rivalry for dispatching troops from Germany, America, Britain, and France to Bosnia, is continuing under the condition when famine has already taken its toll on the lives of the besieged Muslims and the capital city of Sarajevo is being pounded by the Serbs' artillery units. Therefore it must be said that the bolstering the military presence of the contact group members does neither check the current crisis nor disturbs aggression as these states only thing about their own interests in the region.

Paper Criticizes U.S., European Human Rights Record

LD0607084695 Tehran IRNA in English 0838 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 6, IRNA — Ever since the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran, the United States and most European countries, more often than not, have been resorting to the human rights issue as a leverage against Iran, a daily wrote Thursday.

But, the English-language TEHRAN TIMES said, in its latest report on human rights during 1994, Amnesty International has termed the human rights situation in the United States "appalling".

"Amnesty singled out the U.s. for its prison system, 'police brutality, torture and ill-treatments', as well as the unstinting use of the death penalty," it said.

Ironically, it noted, most U.S. officials have been posing as self-proclaimed defendants of human rights in other countries, especially in the third world.

Considering the latest Amnesty report, the U.S. had better improve its own human rights record instead of bothering about it in other countries, the editorial suggested.

Likewise, it said, Amnesty International is not satisfied with the performance of most European countries.

In France, Amnesty noted a "worrying number of shootings and killings by law enforcement officers," and, in Britain, "cruel, inhuman or degrading" treatment of illegal immigrants held for deportation, it underlined.

"It also reported torture and extra-judicial executions by security forces in Israel," the article stressed, adding, "most baseless accusations leveled against Iran are spread by the Zionist- controlled mass media in the United States and Europe. Unfortunately, as reported by Amnesty, the record of the U.S., Europe and Israel is not bright."

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Amnesty should avoid being influenced by those countries, the article proposed and noted that the U.S., the European countries and Israel ought to pay more attention to human rights in their own countries instead of being worried about other countries. It is pertinent here to say "physician heal thyself," concluded the editorial.

Sudanese President Sends Message to Rafsanjani

LD0507184495 Tehran IRNA in English 1431 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 5, IRNA — The Sudanese ambassador to Tehran, Qutbi al-Mahdi today handed a message from President 'Umar al-Bashir for his Iranian counterpart Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, to First Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Hashemi.

The Sudanese ambassador, while submitting the message, stressed the important role Iran plays in the region and the world and briefed Hashemi on the latest developments in Egypt-Sudan relations.

Expressing his pleasure that the recent tension in Egypt-Sudan relations had eased relatively, Hashemi hoped that with the announcement of the outcome of the investigations, it would become known to the world that Sudan had no part in the assassination attempt of President Husni Mubarak of Egypt.

Envoy Deplores 'Incrimination' of Sudan

LD0507211795 Tehran IRNA in English 2102 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 6, IRNA — Sudan's ambassador to Tehran Qutbi al-Mahdi told Iran's Interior Minister 'Ali Besharati here Wednesday that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak had been pushing Sudan "to a corner that would never benefit the Muslims of the region."

The Sudanese ambassador who was alluding to Cairo's incrimination of Sudan in the aborted attack against the life of Egyptian President Mubarak last week said Sudan was never interested in straining her relations with Cairo.

He said his government would appreciate every effort by friendly Muslim governments, among them Iran, for normalizing relations between Khartoum and Cairo.

The Iranian minister of the interior, Besharati, said in response that from the outset the prevailing conclusion among the Iranians was that the attempt against Mubarak's life had been designed by the Zionists without any knowledge or role having been played by the Sudanese.

Besharati said the least contingent profit to the Zionists, as the result of the attempt, would be to witness confrontation between Egypt and Sudan.

He also observed that the Americans had bungled in the so-called peace process between the Zionists and Muslims and that the deadlocked negotations between the two sides had been a clear proof of their failure.

Besharati commented that the problems with which Sudan was facing were the price it was paying for her independence.

Velayati Interviewed on Foreign Relations

NC3006113695 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 22 Jun 95 pp 1, 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati has given an exclusive interview to our correspondent and answered questions on the international orders trying to rule the world, the reason for the failure of America's economic sanctions on Iran, relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and its neighbors, and the Caspian Sea's legal status.

Commenting on the future of the international order, he stated: For the past couple of years we have witnessed the emergence of a new situation in the world which gives rise to the possibility that the way the world will be managed in the near future will be different from the past.

Dr. Velayati said: In regard to the new international situation, one opinion is that the world will not be a unipolar world in the future with America at the top of the power pyramid, but that it will be a multipolar world. And I think that the world is moving toward a multipolar system.

He added: Signs of change in the management of world affairs are already visible, and the clearest sign of all is the way the world has handled the issue of America's trade sanctions on Iran.

Explaining why America has failed with its economic sanctions on Iran, the foreign minister said: America's failure to dictate conditions on Iran lie partly in American statesmen's wrong assessment of the changing face of the world, and partly in the Islamic Republic's success in expanding relations with other countries and informing the world, in various ways, of its stands.

He added: The clarification of the Islamic Republic's stances, especially as far as the accusations against it are concerned, was especially effective in that it informed the world of the truth and corrected the distorted picture that America and Israel had painted of it.

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Asked whether Andreotti came to Iran to mediate between Iran and America, and if he agrees with Andreotti's opinion that there are no problems between Iran and America that cannot be solved, Velayati said: It is only natural for any Western politician who comes to Iran to speak about Iran's relations with the West, and this especially applies to Mr. Andreotti, who is a veteran and experienced politician. But at the same time, in his interviews with correspondents, Andreotti refuted reports that he had a mediatory role. Also, in his discussions with our country's officials, including myself, he made no mention of mediation.

Velayati said: Mr. Andreotti was stating his own opinion when he said that there are no problems between Iran and America that cannot be solved.

Commenting on the future of Iran-Iraq relations, the foreign minister said: We are neighbors of Iraq and want to expand relations with all our neighbors. Shortly after the activation of Iranian-Iraqi efforts to expand bilateral relations, the Afghan [as published] foreign minister came to our country and we issued a joint statement. This was the first time since the victory of the Islamic Revolution that we issued a joint statement with a high- ranking Afghan official. This shows that in our foreign policy we give special priority to expanding relations with our neighbors by building on our points of agreement. And the most important thing that we have in common with these countries are our borders.

On the outcome of the Iran-Iraq talks on the release of the remaining Iranian POW's in Iraq, he said: Judging from the talks that we have held, we can express hope that the problems between Iran and Iraq will be solved properly and to the satisfaction of both sides. We hope that the problem of the POW's is solved as soon as possible.

Asked whether any agreement was reached with Iraq on preventing the activities of the monafeqin [hypocrites — pejorative for the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] on the Islamic Republic's borders, he said: The issue of the monafeqin has ceased to have any impact on the Islamic Republic of Iran, which has generally proven its stability. Nevertheless, relations between Iran and Iraq cannot be good as long as there are some people inside Iraq who are plotting against Iran.

Answering a question on his upcoming visit to Iraq and whether the Islamic Republic of Iran will ask the Iraqi authorities to extradite monafeqin leader Mas'ud Rajavi, he said: My visit to Iraq will take place at a suitable time, depending on the progress achieved at the talks between the experts. We have discussed the extradition of the monafeqin with the Iraqis. This is one of the topics of our discussion with the Iraqi Government.

Asked what relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and countries like Syria and Lebanon will be like if those countries reach a compromise with the Zionist regime, he said: We have never accepted and will never accept the legitimacy of the occupation of Palestine. Our policy on this is principled, and our stand definitely will not change. So the closer any country comes to the regime occupying Jerusalem in any way, the farther it will be distancing itself from us.

Our correspondent asked the foreign minister: What impact could the vagueness of the Caspian Sea's legal status have on the Azerbaijan oil consortium? What impact could the cancellation of Iran's participation in this consortium have on Iran's relations on Azerbaijan? Can Azerbaijan appease Iran, in any way, as far as this issue is concerned?

He said: Defining the Caspian Sea's legal status is a major issue, since none of the Caspian Sea littoral countries are benefiting from the absence of this status. It was foreseeable that there would be differences of opinion, but the way to solve differences is through talks. We are ready to hold talks at the proper level to discuss this issue. The five Caspian Sea littoral countries should definitely reach an agreement on this among themselves and accept the fact that it is impossible to meet each and every wish of every country.

He said: The Islamic Republic's participation in the Republic of Azerbaijan's oil consortium was proposed by the Azerbaijanis themselves. We accepted the proposal. But then they withdrew from their initial stand—which is contrary to the principle of friendship and cordiality between countries. Azerbaijan has thus actually harmed the expansion of relations between the two countries. He added: Iran and Azerbaijan have many things in common and should expand their relations in a way that will be a good example for regional countries.

He said: In order to expand its relations with Iran, Azerbaijan should do what it previously said it would—back Iran's participation in the oil consortium.

He was asked about Iran's relations with Russia and whether the Russians regard their relations with Iran merely as bilateral ties or if these relations express the Russians' disillusionment with their relations with the West, especially with the Americans. Velayati said: What we have gleaned from the Russian officials' remarks is that they, like us, are serious about expanding relations with Iran and that what they have done is not a temporary decision.

He added: Naturally the expansion of relations is a bilateral issue and depends on efforts by both sides. Of course one cannot doubt that the Russians are

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disillusioned to a certain extent. The West, specifically America, have shown that they are more talk than serious deeds when dealing with those whose friends they claim to be.

Asked about the political future of Afghanistan and which Afghan group will ultimately gain power, he said: The various jehadi groups in Afghanistan have a common history of struggle for their country's freedom, and more than anyone else, they have a right to decide the future of their country. But as far as the conflict among these groups is concerned, we can only advise them to set aside their differences and cooperate to rebuild their destroyed country.

He added: If Afghanistan's jehadi groups want our help in establishing peace and in reconstructing their country, we will not spare our efforts. But it is not our duty to determine who should rule in Afghanistan and who should not. This is for the Afghans to decide.

Commenting on Iran's relations with Turkey, the foreign minister said: The two countries may have differences of opinion on various issues. Turkey is a NATO member; we are not and will never become a member of any alliance. Turkey is ruled by a secular regime, while we have Islamic rule in our country. Nevertheless, we have many things in common with Turkey, the most important of which is that both nations are Muslim and have a common history and culture. Moreover, both countries have a common border and common interests; and the interests of both countries dictate that they cooperate with each other and solve any differences that may rise through talks.

He said: Our policy in the past has been one of cooperation with Turkey; and the Turkish officials know that it is to the benefit of both countries to cooperate with each other. That is why various delegations travel back and forth between the two countries. The latest such visits was the visit by [Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ala'eddin] Borujerdi to Turkey, during which he handed our president's message to Mr. Demirel.

He added: Both countries should strive to strengthen their common points and to increase cooperation.

Kuwaiti Oil Minister Terms Visit 'Successful'

LD2906100595 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0840 GMT 29 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Isfahan, 29 Jun (KUNA) — Oil Minister 'Abd-al-Muhsin al-Mid'aj and the accompanying delegation arrived here today from Tehran after concluding talks with senior Iranian officials. The talks covered the consolidation of oil cooperation between the two countries.

In exclusive remarks to KUNA at Mehrabad international airport in Tehran before leaving for the historic city of Isfahan, he expressed his satisfaction at the outcome of his talks and described his visit to Iran as "successful by all accounts."

Al-Mid'aj added: "We have seen complete welcome for the joint cooperation and coordination of stances over energy whether it was at the regional or the international levels." [passage omitted reviewing his successful talks with his Iranian counterpart and the foreign minister]

Minister al-Mid'aj is due to conclude his official visit to Iran tomorrow and will return to Kuwait, winding up a tour that also took him to Federal Russia. Minister al-Mid'aj attended the OPEC ministerial meeting in Vienna earlier.

Tehran Discusses OAU Summit Follow-Up

NC2906071195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 29 Jun 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] The 31st OAU summit ended yesterday afternoon. During the three-day session in the Ethiopian capital and OAU headquarters, Addis Ababa, participants discussed the problems of the black continent and sought solutions to them. The summit agenda, which was prepared several days in advance, during a meeting of African foreign ministers, paid particular attention to establishing and safeguarding peace and stability throughout Africa.

The leaders and representatives of 54 African countries at the Addis Ababa talks examined ways to prevent new disputes from emerging and ways to prevent existing disputes from expanding in the continent. The OAU members stressed the need to strengthen the organization and solve its problems, especially concerning its structural and financial aspects, and discussed ways to strengthen the OAU peacekeeping forces in crisis areas—either independently or under UN supervision.

The OAU's biggest problem in carrying out its duties stems from weakness in its financial structure and a lack of coordination among its members. It is not yet clear how successful the Addis Ababa summit was in removing the current problems faced by the OAU. But, undoubtedly, if this organization of 54 African countries wants to find its political and economic niche on the international scene, it should turn to arrangements that will expand and accelerate coordination and cooperation among them.

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The 31st OAU summit was overshadowed somewhat by incidents on its first day. President Husni Mubarak of Egypt, chairing the past OAU term, was targeted by unidentified men upon his arrival in Ethiopia. He immediately returned to his country. This incident created concern among the diplomatic missions in Addis Ababa, casting its shadow over the OAU summit.

Now, at the end of the African summit, judging whether it achieved its objectives depends on its decisions being implemented. It needs time.

Larijani: No Major Change to Majles in Next Elections

LD0507131195 Tehran IRNA in English 1253 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 5, IRNA — Tehran Deputy in Majles Mohammad Javad Larijani predicted that with not much time left till the parliamentary elections, it is unlikely that new political groups will emerge. Therefore, the present makeup of the Majles will be kept ulmost intact.

In an interview with the English daily TEHRAN TIMES on Wednesday he added that the political grouping of the new parliament is expected to remain the same.

"The concept of right and left wings in the Iranian political arena does not exactly correspond to the notion associated with those terms in other countries," noted Larijani who is also in charge of the Iranian parliament's research center.

However, "as far as these two terms are used to distinguish between the two different political viewpoints in Iran, it can be said that some 120 parliamentary seats are taken by the right wing, and nearly 37 seats are occupied by the left wing," he added.

"A public opinion poll conducted by the parliament's research center revealed no remarkable swing of public attitude toward either side, indicating there will be no significant change in the number of the representatives sent by either wing to the parliament," Larijani told the paper.

The elections for the next term of Majles will be held March 8, 1996, to send 275 representatives to parliament.

Second Stage of Victory-6 Maneuvers Continues

LD0607103395 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In the continuation of the second stage of the great Victory-6 exercises today, the white uniformed [navy] personnel of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps once again demonstrated their combat strength in a glorious parade.

At the 57,000-strong parade and inspection ceremony, staged in the blue waters of the Persian Gulf, naval vessels in a special formation demonstrated their combat strength in the presence of Rear Admiral Shamkhani, the commander of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and a number of top military commanders and war experts.

At the ceremony, the fast flying aircraft of the Iranian Air Force, accompanied by sea helicopters from the Navy, in an unprecedented operation involving firing missiles and repeated shelling, dealt heavy and fatal blows with their voluminous and relentless fire at the positions of an imaginary enemy.

In the meantime, the maneuvers of the fast boats of the Guards Corps Navy comprised another part of the show of strength at today's ceremonies, which were observed by the participants in the exercises.

Submarine patrols, the sending of emergency signals to friendly vessels, the entry of reconnaissance teams into the theater of operations — which were first-time events — took place. Also, the escorting of convoys and units firing at unmanned aircraft were among other parts of the ceremonies.

[Video shows aerial shots of a number of naval vessels, such as warships and gunboats, and helicopters in flight]

Paper Addresses Question of Freedom of Press

NC2906062895 Tehran SALAM in Persian 19 Jun 95 pp 2, 7

[From the "Special Answer to a Telephone Call" column]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Question by an unidentified caller] The extent of freedom of the press can be gleaned from the news published in the newspapers, all of which is disseminated by IRNA. Why don't you try to have an independent source for your news or have your correspondents prepare the news? At least, as far as foreign news is concerned, you can refrain from depending on IRNA since IRNA too receives its foreign news from foreign news agencies and then places it at your disposal after censoring it, not to mention the fact that foreign news agencies carry more precise reports even on our own domestic issues.

[Answer by SALAM's news section] Recently, in answer to a telephone call by a reader on a similar topic, we briefly pointed out that private newspapers and, of course, SALAM, face major problems from

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two directions when preparing news. One is in the domestic field which actually hearkens back to acute economic problems, and the other is in the foreign field and the limited field of action of the official news sources. Our major problem is in preparing independent and diversified news, meaning that the atmosphere that rules the state institutions and organizations is one of non-cooperation with the news media and especially with the non-governmental media. And unfortunately, they do not do what the country's parliamentary and administrative system call for on the basis of the people's votes—that publishing any type of news is admissible unless proven otherwise; instead, apparently the publication of no news is permissible unless proven otherwise!

To avoid generalizations, we will refer to some specific cases which our colleagues recently faced.

1. Early this month [beginning 22 May] we were informed by a reader's telephone call and by one of our correspondents that a concert by the traditional orchestra Ava directed by Mohammad Reza Shajaryan which was to be held at the International Fair grounds was interrupted, despite announcements and the sale of tickets, when a group of people interfered to prevent the entry of some people who had failed to observe the dress code. We were also informed that the fourth performance of the concert was also canceled and that Mr. Shajaryan announced that he would never perform in Iran again.

After receiving this report, we sought a meeting with the officials in charge to ask for more details and especially to see why, despite the official permission for the performance, the performance was prevented from taking place as planned. But our dear readers should be informed that from the day when our colleagues tried to contact officials at the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance's department for revolutionary songs and anthems, which is in charge of such programs, until today, we have been unable to contact any of these gentlemen and they have failed to answer our questions, resorting to various pretexts such as being unavailable because of meetings or not having time. And after his most recent contact with the said department, our correspondent asks: "Who should solve our problem? How can someone be in meetings for an entire week? Isn't there anyone in the entire department who knows how to treat a correspondent? Who should answer our questions? Why are these gentlemen afraid to answer such a simple question? We are only trying to protect your efforts...."

We then contacted the cultural office of the ministry and were promised that the issue would be followed up and that the officials in charge would be ordered to grant the necessary information to the newspapers. But this promise too was not kept.

2. Concurrently, the issue of preparing news reports on the arrival of visitors from Central Asian countries to Tehran came up. Next to the interviews with some of these visitors and with some bazaar merchants, it was also necessary to interview the officials who were directly involved in this issue and to ask them to answer some questions. We contacted the tourism office of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance which is in charge of this matter. The person in charge of this office, who is apparently an adviser to the deputy minister as well, stated in answer to our correspondent's questions that he has no information on this. Following this, another correspondent also applied to the same department and insisted that his questions be answered, especially by the deputy minister himself. After a series of discussions and after convincing the head of the department of the significance of the issue and the fact that it is the department's responsibility to clarify doubts and to answer questions, the head of the department informed the deputy minister in writing and attached our correspondent's questions to the letter. And finally, without any specific answers to our questions, the esteemed deputy minister contented himself with jotting down a few notes in the margin of the written request and questions!

In relation to this and in view of the fact that the Foreign Ministry too is connected with the issue in some ways, questions were compiled and faxed to the Foreign Ministry's public relations department. In order to follow up the issue, our colleagues then contacted the said department and were told that "we have not received the fax!" We faxed the questions once again, confirmed reception, and waited for answers, but in vain. We again contacted the department and were promised that answers would be sent. But after almost two weeks, we had still not received any answers and we had no alternative but to publish a report on the subject without any explanations.

3. On 3 Khordad [24 May], the anniversary of the conquest of Khorramshahr, we decided to publish a detailed report on the situation in Khorramshahr and how reconstruction was progressing there. Before dispatching a correspondent to Khorramshahr, our colleagues attended a press conference organized by the esteemed office of the vice president who is also the head of the Reconstruction Staff. They put forth a few issues on reconstruction and asked him to attend an exclusive interview to answer any questions that would arise during their visit to Khorramshahr. After our correspondents' return from Khorramshahr, they repeatedly contacted

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the vice president's office for the interview. However, he refrained from attending the interview, stating that there is no reason to speak about the reconstruction of Khorramshahr at this point and that, God willing, he would attend an interview during Government Week or War Week. But he kindly offered to answer any questions that SALAM had on economic issues, foreign exchange, or the market situation!

At any rate, our many questions on problems, inefficiencies, mistakes in the reconstruction process, and so on remain unanswered, and the esteemed vice president who heads the reconstruction activities in the war-stricken areas and who is the main person in charge has refused to face our correspondents and to answer their questions.

These are only a few brief examples of our everyday problems and show that part of our difficulties stem from our inability to prepare independent and exclusive news reports. This is at a time when President Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated in his interview with some editors-in-chief that the government does not seem to have any problems in its contacts with the press and that it should naturally support such an effort. In the same interview he also advised that officials in the executive branch not spare any efforts in cooperating with the press.

However, we see how the officials refuse to carry out even the least bit of cooperation with the newspapers, even though the newspapers sometimes go out of their way to support them.

Of course, there is no cause for concern because a free flow of information continues to exist in the country and, according to a press dignitary, we are free to ask the officials and they are free not to answer us!

Pakistan

Government-MQM Talks Delayed for '3 or 4 Days'

BK0507135195 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The talks between the government and [Muhajir Qaumi Movement, MQM]-Altaf group, which were to be held in Islamabad tomorrow, have been delayed for three or four days with mutual agreement. The next date and time for the talks will be announced later. PTV political correspondent understands that the talks have been delayed because of some logistic problems faced by Altaf group delegation. The members of the Altaf group, who were at different places, were facing difficulties to reach Islamabad on time for tomorrow's talks. They had to coordinate among themselves for travel plans and hold a meeting for prior consultation. They approached the government for delaying the talks for a couple of days to which the government agreed. The government team at the talks is headed by the federal minister for law, justice, and parliamentary affairs, professor N.D. Khan, while Altaf group is team is led by Mr. Ajmal Dehlvi.

Travel Delays Cited in Postponement

BK0607074095 Islamabad THE NATION in English 6 Jul 95 pp 1,4

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — The government-MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] talks, set for Thursday (today), have been postponed for at least a couple of days, apparently because some of the MQM representatives could not reach the federal Capital in time.

According to a report of the APP, leader of the Altaf Group team, Ajmal Dehlvi said from London that the talks could take place now on Saturday or Sunday. From his views, it appeared that the MQM had not decided to call off the meeting and that it was only delayed.

Ajmal Dehlvi said his team would be demanding greater social and political rights for Urdu-speaking population of Karachi. "We would also press for compensation to those who had been affected by the operation in the city," he was quoted as saying.

He claimed that the MQM had never demanded a separate province for the Urdu population and that it would not do so in the forthcoming talks. Dehlvi said the MQM would continue to hold the two-day weekly strike to push for the arrest of those involved in the alleged gangrape of a sister of the party activist.

Ajmal Dehlvi, a spokesman of MQM, was supposed to reach Islamabad from London on Wednesday to begin talks with the government. Another MQM member Sheikh Liaquat was to accompany him.

Government sources maintained that the talks were postponed after consultation with the MQM leadership. MQM sources, however, said that in the initial stages they had not given July 6 as the final date. "It was announced by the government itself without consulting the MQM," said party sources.

But they admit that they were in consultation with their high command which had given approval to holding the talks. However, there was a general air of disappointment as people of Karachi are awaiting the outcome of talks with great curiosity and hope.

Senator Ishtaq Azhar told The Nation on Wednesday that he had no knowledge why the talks had been postponed. He said he had had no contact with the leadership in London. About the opposition's conference on Karachi, he said the PML (N) had formally invited his

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part on Wednesday. "I have faxed the invitation to Altaf Hussain for further decision.

But a few days back, I was told by the leadership in London that the MQM would be attending the conference, which is scheduled for July 10."

One view was that probably the Altaf group wanted to first take part in the conference and then go into dialogue with the government.

In another related development, Lt Gen. (Retd) Hamid Gul, as a follow up of his meeting with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, was said to have put forward his proposals to her on Wednesday after establishing contacts with the Altaf Group.

When The Nation tried to contact Law Minister ND Khan, Education Minister Syed Khurshid Shah and Interior Minister Naseerullah Babar, none of them were available for comment. Despite repeated attempts, the reply was the same that they were busy.

PPI adds: Earlier in the day, ND Khan told reporters that the talks were postponed after MQM leadership approached the government expressing their inability to attend the talks due to some "logistic problems." Khan said the talks were likely to be held on July 9 or 10.

It may be recalled that the leader of the MQM team, Ajmal Dehlvi and Sheikh Liaquat Hussain, are presently in London for consultation with Altaf Hussain before they enter into any dialogue with the government.

According to MQM sources, it was because of the difficulties these two members were facing in reaching Pakistan, the party leadership had to approach the government to postpone the talks.

The MQM had nominated a five member team for the talks comprising Ajmal Dehlvi (leader), Tariq Javaid, Shuaib Bukhari, Qazi Khalid and Sheikh Liaquat Hussain while the government team will be headed by the Law Minister, Prof ND Khan. Other members of the team are Afaq Shahid and Zuhair Akram Nadeem.

ND Khan termed nomination of team by Altaf Hussain as a positive sign for the negotiated solution of Karachi problem. He said dialogue between the Paris of divergent views under one roof is the best and perhaps the only way to sort out differences among them.

He hoped that the differences between the government and the MQM will be resolved through a series of meetings. "Every issue under the sun can be solved through negotiations," he remarked.

Replying to a question about the opposition's demand for convening of joint sitting of the Parliament, he said Speaker National Assembly Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani is the competent authority to respond to such queries.

He, however, opined that there is no provision in the Constitution to convene a joint sitting to discuss issues which have repeatedly been discussed in both Houses of the parliament.

He said that the Karachi problem has been discussed on a number of occasions separately in both the Houses.

However, he said that the scenario has changed now and the government-MQM talks are scheduled to find out an amicable solution to the prevailing crisis in Karach. Therefore, there is no need for the joint sitting of the parliament to be summoned.

Zohair Akram Nadeem was reported as having said that he would be attending the government-MQM talks.

Our Karachi correspondent adds: Government-MQM talks scheduled to be held on Thursday (today) have been postponed for three to four days. Now these talks are likely to be held on July 10th or 11th.

The government sources have disclosed that the talks were postponed after consultation with MQM leadership. Ajmal Dehlvi, a spokesman of MQM was supposed to reach Pakistan from London to join the talks in Islamabad. Another MQM member was also accompanying him.

The MQM sources however, have said that in the initial stages they had not given the 6th July as the final date. It was announced by the government itself without consulting the MQM about the date.

The MQM has further said that they were in consultation with their high command which has given approval to initiate the talks.

All those who were looking for the talks and peace in Karahci, are disappointed and said that both the parties are not perhaps working with proper coordination.

MQM Presents 10-Point Formula for Government Talks

BK0507130895 Islamabad THE NATION in English 5 Jul 95 pp 1, 4

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD — Senator Ishtiaq Azhar of the MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] has said the government must stop harassment of his party workers so that the forthcoming talks could be held in a better atmosphere.

The Senator said this while talking to THE NATION on Tuesday night. He said although there was no possibility of the cancellation of government-MQM

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talks, but the continuing strong arm tactics employed by the government were not helping at all.

He said an APP report that the MQM was equipping its workers with uniforms of Rangers and police was baseless. "These kind of reports would spoil the good atmosphere. I heard a statement of Information Minister Khalid Ahmad Kharal about MQM which was totally uncalled for."

Ishtiaq Azhar when asked about the fate of the dialogue, said he could not say much at this stage. But he did add that same government, which had been calling upon the MQM to surrender arms, was now ready to talk to Altaf Hussain. He said the question as to why the government was compelled to talk to Altaf Hussain should be put the Ministers.

Giving the background, he said Altaf Hussain had allowed his team to hold dialogue with the government after Federal Law Minister ND Khan had twice contacted Ajmal Dehalvi in London. "He made an unconditional offer for dialogue to Ajmal Dehalvi and there was no mention of giving up arms." About the arrival of the MQM team, he said they would most probably becoming to the federal capital on Wednesday.

He said Ajmal Dehalvi was to leave London for Pakistan on Tuesday but there was no word about his arrival till late Tuesday night.

According to him, the four-member MQM team would be staying here on its own and there was no intimation of government making arrangements for them.

The Senator said even now the Muhajir youth were not being allowed to enter Punjab from Sindh. He said he himself was under constant detention and nobody was being allowed to meet him. He said he had talked to Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan and ND Khan about these restrictions but so far, no relaxation had been provided.

He said former ISI [Inter Service Intelligence] chief Hamid Gul had also been in contact with Ajmal Dehalvi which showed that everybody wanted peace in Karachi.

Our Karachi Correspondent adds: Pakistan Muhajir Rabita council President, Nusrat Mirza has presented 10-point formula for consideration for the proposed meeting to be hold on Thursday between government and MQM in Islamabad on Karachi crisis.

Talking to journalists on Tuesday he said that government should release all MQM prisoners who are not involved in heinous crimes; all MQM's elected representatives be released immediately; Local bodies polls be held immediately: Operation in sensitive areas be stopped forthwith; Muhajirs be given proper representation in administration and police; Government should announce that it would not bring police and Rangers from Punjab; all evening newspapers be allowed to be published on which ban has been imposed.

At the same time, the MQM should try to bring the violence under control and help the government with open heart; should demand rights for its voters; it should ask the government to announce a relief package, he said.

He expressed views that MQM and PPP [Pakistan People's Party] are under severe pressure. The PPP is afraid of losing its Sindhi vote bank in case of supporting the cause of Muhajirs.

The MQM is under pressure that it cannot afford the socio-economic destruction of its voters who have already suffered. If Mayawati, a Harijan can be the Chief Minister of Utter Pradesh a Brahmin-dominated province then why a Muhajir should not be trusted to become the Chief Minister of Sindh, he asked.

Khan Regrets MQM Attitude; 4 Killed in Karachi

BK0107154795 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 1 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The federal minister for law, justice, and parliamentary affairs, Professor N.D. Khan, has regretted that MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement]-Altaf Group has not responded positively to the sincere offer of talks by the government for restoring peace in Karachi. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad, he said the Altaf Group has put conditions for talks despite the fact that he had extended invitation to the MQM-Altaf Group leadership without putting any preconditions. He said the norms, traditions, and spirit of democratic setup are that preconditions are not put for any talks to resolve issues. Prof. N.D. Khan said the government has received encouraging and positive response from the people, especially from Karachiites, about the talks offer as they want peace and tranquillity in the city. He said unlicensed weapons and wanted criminals must be surrendered to the authorities and terrorism be denounced in clear terms to create conducive atmosphere.

The Muslim Muttahida Mahaz [united front] has welcomed the formation of a negotiating committee by the prime minister to hold dialogue with MQM for resolving outstanding issues. The Mahaz held a meeting in Karachi today, which was attended by Mahaz's Patron in Chief Maulana Irshadul Haq Thanvi, Chairman Maulana Mirza Yusuf Hussain, and Patron Prof. Hafiz Mahmud Hussain Siddiqi. They said in a joint statement that the dialogue between the government and MQM-Altaf Group is in greater national interest.

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According to police sources, four people were killed and nine others injured in incidents of violence in different parts of Karachi today. According to APP, unidentified miscreants set on fire a number of shops in Sukkur today.

Police Round Up 200 MQM Supporters in Hyderabad

BK0607090795 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 6 Jul 95 pp 1, 4

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hyderabad, July 5 — Indiscriminate midnight raids and house-to-house search by police and rangers in Hyderabad city and Latifabad have made the life of the people a nightmarish one. Added to it is the manhandling of women folk by the police during operation.

A number of police parties assisted by paramilitary troopers continued their midnight raids and house-to-house searches in Latifabad Unit No 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 and Khata Chowk, Liaquat Colony, Hali Road, Pucca Qila, Paretabad, Phulleli and some other localities of the city and rounded up nearly 200 MQM activists and supporters, In the said operation some private vehicles which were forcibly taken over by the police were also used.

Keeping up their track record of abuses and fisting and kicking the people, the police, according to a resident of Phulleli, Paretabad practised free for all. Walls of the houses were not only scaled but doors were also broken to storm into the houses and the inmates including women and old were swooped upon like the subjects of a conquered territory, told another victim in Latifabad.

The ailing mother of an MQM activist Eijaz was injured when she argued and resisted the arrest of her three teenage sons. She was removed to hospital with her head profusely bleeding after the police left the scene with her children.

Another such incident was reported from the police station of Latifabad "A" Section when the SHO [station house officer] who is allegedly involved in killing of a villager while posted at PS Bhitai Nagar, kicked a woman who was entreating him for the release of her innocent son.

Such cases of police excesses and atrocity have created strong resentment and anger among the citizens already afflicted by myriad of problems due to eruption of violence in the city. The HRCP office-bearers who have recently visited the police lock-ups were flabbergasted to see the teenagers groaning under pain of their limbs fractured and tortured during interrogation. They strongly protested that they were denied to visit the CIA [Crime Investigation Agency] Centre where hundreds of MQM activists, supporters and sympathisers were languishing. The majority of them have neither been booked in any crime nor challenged in any court of law so far. An unhindered way to extorting huge sum of money for the release is open.

The SSP [expansion unknown] office in the city was seen crowded with hundreds of waiting and weeping women and old men running from pillar to post and beseeching the police officials for the release of their kith and kin but to no avail.

Ten Killed in Karachi Shooting Incidents

BK0607024695 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a press briefing by the Karachi commissioner, 10 persons were killed and 20 other injured in various shooting incidents in the city yesterday. Two minibuses were also set on fire in the city.

Cabinet Defense Committee Reviews Karachi Situation

BK0507135595 Islamabad THE NATION in English 5 Jul 95 pp 1, 4

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — The meeting of the Defence Committee of the Cabinet discussed among other things the situation in Karachi with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in the chair.

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Abdullah Shah was specially invited in the meeting to brief the Members including Defence Minister Aftab Shabaan Mirani, Interior Minister Nasirullah Babar, Prime Minister's Advisor on Economic Affairs V.A. Jaffery, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff and the three services chief about the situation in Karachi. The Chief Minister is believed to have informed the committee about the details of the ongoing operation against terrorists in Karachi. When asked by THE NATION, he said the committee was fully briefed about the mechanics and logistics of the operation which he believed would contribute to curbing the menace of terrorism in Karachi.

The meeting also discussed various implications of the Karachi problem, apart from the prevailing security environment in the region. It also discussed other internal and external security concerns faced by Pakistan. The situation in Kashmir and the possibility of India entering Pakistan on the pretext of hot pursuit also came under discussion. Also invited in the meeting was the Frontier Chief Minister who is believed to have apprised the members about the latest political situation in Swat

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where Islamic militants have once again become active. He may also have given his opinion about the situation in the neighbouring Afghanistan.

Corps Commanders Favor Political Solution in Karachi

BK0607104195 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 6 Jul 95 p 12

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — Following important meetings of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee and Defence Committee of the Cabinet held in last two consecutive days, top military commander on Wednesday were unanimous that no amount of threat from across the border could cow down them as they are fully prepared to face all eventualities.

Such was the bold expression and feelings at the Corps Commanders Conference held at the GHQ [General Headquarters]. Army Chief General Abdul Waheed presided over the Conference, which took up a host of issues: threats of hot pursuit from across the border, Kashmir problem, Karachi situation, reports from respective areas and professional matters.

According to defence sources, the main focus of the talks was on Indian threats of hot pursuit and deployment of the Pakistan specific Prithvi ballistic missile on the external front. While on issues of internal security, the Karachi situation remained under discussion.

Besides the Corps Commanders, all the PSOs [Principal Staff Officers] to the GHQ also participated in the discussion and consultations, with firming up the proposals.

In the process of reviewing national security matters, the Corps Commander Karachi gave an extensive briefing on the Karachi situation and the current state of militancy by an ethnic group. He explained the law and order situation, with details of terrorists activities going on to the detrimental of the national security, sources said.

The Karachi Corps Commander also gave his account about the recently-launched limited operation in certain areas of the thickly populated city, said the sources, who added that "extensive discussion took place with an emphasis to control the situation through a mechanism of political dialogue on irritant matters between the parties."

Some sources conceded that the discussion had taken place on the government-MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] talks and chances of any breakthrough. The majority of commanders, according to these sources, were not in favour of sending troops for controlling the situation in urban Sindh unless the situation goes out of the hand of the civil law enforcing agencies and the provincial administration. The emphasis, however, was on finding a political solution to the problem.

The Conference discussed threadbare the threats emanating from across the border. Recent statements of Indian leaders in connection with "hot pursuit" were taken into consideration. The consensus was that such threats can not create any impact on them.

On the prevailing border situation, the raising of a Missile Group in the Indian Army and development of Prithvi ballistic missile was taken as a serious threat to the regional security. The commanders, said the sources, believed that such movement on the part of Indian Army will lead to missile race in the region, as Pakistan has also evolved a system to counter such moves.

According to the sources, the latest situation in Indian held Kashmir and the line of control violations by Indian security forces were also discussed. The situation arising out of the Charar Sharif desecration and massive deployment of Indian troops in the valley to suppress the freedom movement was also discussed, the sources said.

The meeting, however, showed its satisfaction over the current state of preparedness to give a befitting reply to any adventurer.

The Conference also took up professional matters, indigenous production of weapons and the policy of diversification of sources for buying military hardware.

Earlier, COAS [Chief of Army Staff] General Waheed in this welcome address stressed the need of more professionalism in the Army and gave a brief account on the national security matters.

Meanwhile, Pakistan-US joint military exercises will begin in Pakistan from July 13. The month-long exercises will be held following the US-Pak Defence Consultative Group (CG) meeting. The schedule of these exercises was agreed to during the CG meeting. The talks also okayed the resumption of professional military education courses on bilateral basis.

Bhutto Sends Message To UK Parliament on Kashmir

BK0607064195 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has called on the British Parliament to raise its voice in support of the Kashmiri people's right to decide their future. In a message to the newly formed British parliamentary lobby on Kashmir, she called on the British

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parliament to prevail upon India to respect the fundamental human rights of the Kashmiri people. Benazir Bhutto paid tribute to George Galloway for taking the initiative to organize a parliamentary lobby to highlight the Kashmir issue. She thanked all the members of British Parliament who steadfastly espoused the Kashmir cause. The prime minister said the formation of the lobby would lend strength to the Kashmiri people, who are struggling for their right to self-determination.

Benazir Bhutto reiterated Pakistan's solidarity with the struggle of the Kashmiri people, saying that Pakistan will never forsake the Kashmiris. She said world conscience is gradually awakening to the horror that is being enacted in occupied Jammu and Kashmir and the brutalities being committed there by the Indian forces. The world was horrified by the desecration of the shrine of Nuruddin Wali and destruction of the town of Charar Sharif. Many world leaders have also condemned the massacre in Kupwara, Bijbiara, and Sopor and elsewhere in the held valley.

Foreign minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali has said that Pakistan will not allow more inhumane brutalities to be perpetrated against the Kashmiri peopie. Addressing a rally at the Westminister Greater Hall in London organized as part of the national lobby of the British Parliament, the foreign minister described the Kashmir problem as an issue of fundamental rights, legitimacy, and justice. He urged the British parliamentarians and people of conscience to continue to highlight the facts about Kashmir. The foreign minister and Malik Mohammad Qasim, leader of the house in Pakistani Senate, have been especially sent by the prime minister to participate in the lobby as a sign of solidarity by her government.

Bhutto Promises 'Top Priority' Defense Against India

BK0507104195 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 5 Jul 95 pp 1, 4

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has expressed the government's commitment to give top priority to defence, at time when India was pursuing an ambitions missile programme posing a direct threat to Pakistan's security. She made these views known at a meeting of the Defence Committee of the Cabinet (DCC) which discussed threadbare the emerging scenario of security environment in the region.

The Prime Minister presided over a DCC meeting here on Tuesday, which deliberated upon both external and internal security matters, discussed different projects and options for acquiring modern weapons for the Pakistan armed forces, the Kashmir problem, Karachi situation, recent deployment of Prithvi ballistic missile by India close to Pakistan border and the professional upgradation of three forces.

The meeting was also attend by Ministers for Defence, Interior, Prime Minister's adviser on finance, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff committee, services chiefs and concerned secretaries and civil and military officials. Chief Minister Sindh Abdullah Shah and Governor NWFP, [North West Frontier Province] Maj Gen [Retd] Khurshid also participated in the meeting on special invitation.

Apart from the normal agenda of the DCC, highly placed sources confirmed to THE NEWS that the Karachi situation had come under extensive discussion, with different options to resolve the ongoing deterioration of law and order.

These sources say that not only the Chief Minister Sindh but the ISI [Inter Service Intelligence] Chief Gen. Javed Ashraf Qazi had also apprised the meeting about the limited operation launched by civil law enforcing agencies in certain areas in Karachi invite MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] to hold talks on Wednesday.

Informed sources told THE NEWS that the NWFP Governor gave a full account of the recent developments in Malakand division. He was specially invited to inform the DCC about this growing problem in those areas.

The DCC took serious note of deployment of surface to surface prithvi missile along Pakistan borders by Indian forces. India, according to its state minister for defence, had also raised a Missile Group which the Pakistani leaders considered a move to heighten up the missile race in the region.

The unending Line of Control violations and increased suppression of people and human rights violations in the Indian held Kashmir were also discussed, stressing the need to make more efforts to internationalize the issue. It sought the help of the international community to use its influence on India for resolving the Kashmir problem.

According to defence sources, the meeting was informed about the ongoing efforts of the government and armed forces for undertaking indigenous production of weapons and equipment.

These sources say that Naval Chief apprised the meeting about the need to purchase new surface ships from China and construct a submarine rebuild complex.

Air Chief is understood to have informed the meeting about his recent visits abroad where he had looked

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into options of buying new aircraft for the Pakistan Air Force. Abbas Khattak had recently visited France and Belgium. Similarly, the Army chief, General Abdul Waheed, according to the sources, had informed the meeting of the summer trials of tanks, which the government intends to buy for Pakistan Army. The trials of different makes of tanks are currently underway.

Some sources say that the DCC was also informed about the progress so far made in connection with purchase of new Russian choppers for Pakistan Army.

The meeting was briefed about the outcome of the US-Pak defence Consultative Group talks held in Washington and termed it "positive".

Professional matters of the three forces were reviewed by the meeting.

Meanwhile, a two-day Corps Commanders Conference will begin at GHQ [Genera Headquarters] on Wednesday. COAS [Chief of Army Staff] General Abdul Waheed will preside over the conference which will also be attended by PSOs [Principal Staff Officers] to GHQ.

Informed circles do not hesitate in saying that the July 6 and 8 conference of Corps Commanders will be the most important meeting of military commanders in the recent times.

Foreign Secretary Comments on Outcome of Iran Visit

BK0507123395 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Iran maintains that there has been a flagrant violation of human rights in occupied Kashmir. This was stated by Foreign Secretary Mr. Najmuddin Sheikh, who recently visited Tehran, during a news briefing in Islamabad today. He said Islamabad and Tehran have identical perceptions on issues like Kashmir, Afghanistan, and other regional matters. Mr. Najmuddin Sheikh said he was informed by his Iranian counterpart that President Rafsanjani raised the issue of Kashmir with the Indian leadership during his visit to New Delhi.

On Afghanistan, he said Pakistan and Iran both are of the view that there should be peace in that country and the people of Afghanistan should be involved in resolving their problems themselves. Iran also supports the UN peace plan for Afghanistan as it remains the policy of Islamabad.

Referring to bilateral issues, the foreign secretary said Pakistan and Iran are engaged in different joint ventures, including the establishment of a gas pipeline from Iran to Pakistan. On its completion, the pipeline will supply 1.6 billion cubic feet of gas per day. The two countries also agreed to set up Pakistan-Iran oil refinery. The feasibility of this project has been approved and the two countries will float international tenders shortly.

Further on Iran Talks, Row With Kabul

BK0507095895 Islamabad THE NATION in English 5 Jul 95 pp 1, 5

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — A day after the diplomatic stinker from Afghanistan, Pakistan once again stated clearly that there was no change in its Afghan policy and that it had never closed its doors for any Afghan leader.

"Sardar Wali represents a certain force and we have done no more for him than we have for other Afghan leaders," said Foreign Secretary Najmuddin Sheikh in a Press briefing at the Foreign Office on Tuesday.

Kabul had protested with Islamabad for according special treatment to the visiting Sardar Abdul Wali, son-in-law of the ex-king Zahir Shah. Wali was housed in the State Guest House and met among others President Farooq Leghari and Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ali.

"To suggest that we are doing something special for Sardar Wali is to misread and misrepresent our policy," said the Foreign Secretary. "Afghan leaders like Ahmad Shah Mas'ud have their families in Pakistan and they are welcome to visit whenever they want".

He said during his recent visit to Iran, both Islamabad and Tehran had agreed that efforts need to be made to help the Afghans to themselves arrive at a solution acceptable to all. Iran, he said, had assured him that it supported the UN plan for peace in Afghanistan and was willing to cooperate with both the UN and the OIC [Organization of Islamic Conference] in efforts to bring peace there.

Sheikh said his Iranian counterpart had informed him of the visit to Tehran of the Afghan Foreign Minister. He had emphasised that Iran was trying to maintain contact with all the Afghan parties to help them get together.

The Foreign Secretary told journalists that he apprised the Iranians about the prevailing situation in Occupied Kashmir and that additional Indian troops which had been inducted into IHK [Indian-Held Kashmir] for the so-called elections had not been withdrawn even though the polls had been postponed. The APHC [All Party Hurriyat Conference], he said, had remained opposed to these polls.

In turn, his Iranian counterpart briefed him about President Rafsanjani's visit to India but emphasised that there was a special relationship between Iran and

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Pakistan. He told Sheikh that President Rafsanjani had raised the Kashmir issue during his India visit saying that the dispute was creating great problems in the region and that it was both human rights as well as a political problem. "They assured us that they were anxious that this dispute be settled," said Sheikh.

He said in the course of his discussions, relations of Iran with the United States as well as those of Pakistan were reviewed. "There was no expression of anxiety about the nature of our relations with the United States," he said. "I reiterated that Pakistan had regretted the imposition of an embargo by the US on Iran and had urged both the countries to solve their problems through negotiations."

PPI adds: "Iran has not expressed any anxiety on the nature of Pak-US relationship" Foreign Secretary Najmuddin A. Sheikh said here on Tuesday.

Briefing reporters at the Foreign Ministry about the outcome of his recently concluded visit to Iran, Najm said that the two sides did discuss present state of Iran-US relationship and Pakistan's relations with Iran. "But there was no expression of anxiety on part of Iran with regard to the nature of Pak-US relations" he emphatically said.

Asked if he offered to play any mediatory role between Tehran and Washington during his talks with the Iranian officials, the Foreign Secretary said Iran felt that the US action of imposing embargo against Tehran was wrong. But at the same time, Iranians are satisfied that Europe and Japan did not become a party to the US decision.

Referring to the talks held between him and his Iranian counterpart Muhammad Hashemi, Najm said that during the course of discussions which covered entire gamut of bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues. "We specifically looked at the political situation prevailing in the region."

"I briefed my counterpart about the continued Indian repression in the Occupied Kashmir and the situation arising out of the presence of additional troops in the Valley which have not yet been withdrawn," he said. He maintained that the Iranian Foreign Secretary briefed him about President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's recent visit to India. Hashemi pointed out that Iran and Pakistan enjoyed special relationship which must be paid greater attention, Najm stated.

Asked if he felt any change in Iranian position on Kashmir especially after Rafsanjani's visit to New Delhi, the Foreign Secretary said that Tehran recognised the dispute as an issue creating problems adding that Iranian position on the dispute had been clearly stated in various Pak-Iran joint communiques.

He termed his discussions with Iranian President and Ministers including Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati as very constructive and fruitful and said that it was decided during the talks to put the continuing process of consultations between the two countries on institutionalised basis.

He said that the two sides also held in-depth exchange of views on various bilateral projects including those of Pak-Iran gas pipeline, Pak-Iran refinery, awarding of contracts to Iranian firms for building roads in Pakistan and increase in trade.

Dwelling at length on the progress so far achieved for the execution of these projects, he said that on Pak-Iran gas pipleine issue, after approval of the project by concerned Pakistani authorities, a number of firms had been approached to indicate their intention for participation in the projects.

He said that a meeting with all the firms, which had shown interest to move forward, would be held shortly adding that a joint venture company was also being formed to supervise the whole project.

With regard to Pak-Iran refinery project, the Foreign Secretary said that considerable progress had already been made in this respect. Steps are now being taken to issue tenders in connection with the other works to be done in connection with this project.

Referring to road construction project, he said that a team was in Iran during his visit to discuss terms and conditions adding that there had been an agreement that if Iran qualifies in international tendering, it will be able to provide some supplier credit for the construction of coastal roads Makran.

He said that the matters pertaining to enhancing cooperation between the two countries in cultural field were also discussed threadbare. He, however, did not disclose further details in this regard saying that these would be announced immediately after the things take a practical shape.

He said while discussing Afghan issue, the two sides agreed to make efforts for helping Afghan leaders to arrive at a solution acceptable to broad spectrum of Afghan society. He said that like Pakistan, Iran was also engaged in the process of contacting all Afghan leaders and parties to render necessary assistance for bringing them together on negotiation table.

Naj said that his Iranian counterpart assured him that Tehran fully supported the UN peace plan aimed at bringing to in end a fratricidal war in Afghanistan.

When asked to comment on the reports that Iran was losing interest in the ECO [Economic Cooperation

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Organization], he pointed out that he found Iran very interested in ECO adding that Iran was, however, disappointed that enough progress had not been made in achieving the objectives of the organisation. But it was of course reflection of a common feeling, he stated.

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